Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XIX, Issue No. 219 | SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 2009 | www.saipantribune.com | 50¢

Visit us online @ www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
At this point, do you support a one-year extension in the federalization of local immigration?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS
PHASE 6
September 11, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Bullhorn on Terror

On Sept. 11, 2001, Barack Obama was driving to a state legislative hearing in Chicago when he heard the first sketchy reports.

NATION...Page 10

'Idol' Judge

Ellen DeGeneres is known for being nice but she said that she's also ready to be honest.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 20

Babauta

Babauta confirmed as Interior's assistant chief for insular areas

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Senate on Thursday confirmed President Barack Obama's nomination of Anthony "Tony" M. Babauta as Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs at the Department of the Interior, a development hailed by CNMI and Guam officials.

Originally from Guam, Babauta is the first from the Pacific islands to hold the position, which was re-established by the Obama administration after more than 15 years of absence.

As Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs, Babauta will coordinate with other executive branch agencies federal policy for the CNMI, Guam, the U.S. Virgin Islands and American Samoa.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar lauded Babauta's confirmation, saying: "A native of Guam and a Capitol Hill veteran, Tony brings experience

See BABAUTA on Page 4

Guam bureau supports MVA plea for federalization delay

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam Visitors Bureau has backed the position of its counterpart in the CNMI by adopting a resolution that supports a delay in the implementation of federalization by another year, or until Oct. 1, 2010.

See GUAM on Page 4

A day of mourning becomes a day of service

By SUZANNE MA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)— Drawing on the spirit that spurred volunteers to rush to the burning World Trade Center on Sept. 11, 2001, Americans looked for ways to help each other on a day better known for mourning the thousands of people killed in the nation's worst terrorist attack.

Teresa Mathai, whose husband, Joseph Mathai,

See A DAY on Page 4

At sunrise in Washington, a National Park Service worker cleans the marble floor of the Lincoln Memorial. Americans planned beach cleanups, packages for soldiers and save-the-tree fundraisers along with familiar remembrances in three cities to mark eight years since the attacks of Sept. 11, the first time the anniversary was named a national day of service.

AP

18 Aggreko generators dismantled

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government dismantled yesterday all 18 generators rented from Aggreko, ending one year of service to the island and putting the entire Saipan power grid on CUC power.

Today marks the end of the one-year $6 million contract with the Singapore-

See AGGREKO on Page 4

Newly hired Commonwealth Utilities Corp. assistant executive director for power, water and wastewater Abe Malae, left, talks with CUC executive director Tony Muña yesterday afternoon right before handing certificates to seven CUC linemen who completed a two-year certification training. Malae served for many years as chief executive officer of the American Samoa Power Authority.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Number of laptop theft cases on the rise. **PAGE 3**
Giving the Philippines' remitters their voice. **PAGE 12**

Local

House committee defers vote on document request

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Saying that preparing a sound and balanced Fiscal Year 2010 budget should be a priority at this time, the House Ways and Means Committee yesterday deferred voting on whether or not to request documents related to the federalization lawsuit from the Fitial administration—as requested by Rep. Tina Sablan (Ind-Saipan).

Sablan expressed disappointment with the committee's decision but committee member Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) said that Sablan should just try and ask Gov. Benigno R. Fitial for a copy of the government's engagement letter/contract with the U.S.-based law firm Jenner & Block LLP, and detailed billing invoices.

Torres said Fitial showed him the two sets of documents on Thursday after he simply asked to review them.

"I already saw the documents Thursday after asking the governor to see them. I didn't ask for a copy; I just reviewed them. It is privilege information, and even the courts said that, so I won't be able to disclose the information there. If only Tina asked the governor, then maybe she could also see the documents because it's in the governor's discretion," said Torres.

Last year, Sablan made an Open Government Act request for financial and other documents showing how and how much the government is spending in its lawsuit against the federal government but the Fitial administration refused to release them.

Sablan sued the administration to compel it to release the documents. Last week, Sablan got 30 of the 32 documents as ordered by the courts.

"These past 10 months, taxpayers and citizens of the CNMI have rightfully been asking, 'what is the administration hiding?' with respect to financial records for a lawsuit that has been filed in their name. Now they may also ask why their own elected representatives are apparently unwilling to find out," Sablan said yesterday.

Committee chair Rep. Ray N. Yumul (R-Saipan) offered to discuss and vote on the document request but committee members did not want to vote on the matter at this time.

Eight of the 11 members of the committee were present at the meeting; most of them shared their thoughts on the request.

Torres told the committee he would vote "no."

"We have to respect the court's decision. Why do we have to interfere? We will only be obstructing justice," he said.

A federal judge has yet to rule on the lawsuit filed by the CNMI government. Federalization is set to start on Nov. 28.

Rep. Diego Benavente (R-Saipan) said the courts already made a ruling that the remaining documents being requested by Sablan are privileged information. He also said the committee would want to prioritize the budget process.

Rep. Ramon Tebuteb (R-Saipan), who is leaning toward voting "yes" on the document request, said members would like to focus on the budget first.

Besides Yumul, Stanley Torres, Benavente and Tebuteb, others who were present at the meeting were Rep. Justo Quitugua (D-Saipan), Rep. Ralph Torres (R-Saipan), Rep. Rosemond Santos (R-Saipan) and Rep. David Apatang.

Absent from the meeting were committee members Rep. Victor Hocog, Rep. Edwin Aldan (Cov-Tinian), and Rep. Joe Reyes (R-Saipan).

Earlier, Yumul received confirmation from House legal counsel Antonette Villagomez that asking for these specific documents does not pose legal and constitutional problems.

Sablan said she appreciates the importance of preparing a sound and balanced budget for FY 2010, and for that reason would expect that her colleagues would want to carefully examine the implications of the costly public lawsuit not only for the current fiscal year, but for the next one as well.

"It is clear that they do not. But less clear is why they do not—especially in light of the facts that 1) the Legislature had actually rejected the administration's request to appropriate funds for the lawsuit in the first place last year; and 2) the administration has explicitly acknowledged the right and responsibility of the Legislature to examine the records in question," she said.

She said she plans to appeal to the presiding officers of the House, and will also submit follow-up requests to the administration pursuant to the Open Government Act.

Live the Fiesta Way!
Fiesta Resort and SPA Saipan
goes down memory lane with the
RETRO NIGHTS
at the
Chambre
BAR
Enjoy the music of the 60's 70's and 80's with
MARIO and LORETA every Monday to Saturday.
Entertainment Monday to Friday
Saturday Latino Night 8pm-12mn
HAPPY HOUR from 5 to 7pm
Monday to Friday LIVE BAND MUSIC from 6:30p.m. to 9:15p.m.
For reservations and inquiry, please call 234-6414 ext. 1547-1548 or 233-6414
In Cooperation with
Miller Lite
FIESTA
Resort & SPA
SAIPAN
A TanHoldings Company

Number of laptop theft cases on the rise

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Copper wire theft cases are still a problem on Saipan, but laptop computer theft incidents are noticeably on the rise on the island.

Sources at the Department of Public Safety disclosed to *Saipan Tribune* that investigators are looking into the strong possibility that the rising number of laptop theft cases is related to methamphetamine or "ice" addiction.

Laptop thieves, sources said, sell the computers at very cheap prices to support their addiction to "ice."

Worse, sources said, these thieves usually victimize foreigners and students by breaking into their apartments.

DPS has yet to respond to *Saipan Tribune*'s inquiry about the rise of laptop theft incidents.

Last Sunday, Edwin Jota, an employee at Aquarius Beach Tower, said that someone broke into their apartment in Chalan Kiya and stole their Sony Vaio laptop worth over $700. Jota said the burglar or burglars also stole his PS2 game, his wife's assorted jewelry, and his children's two PSP games. The total value of the stolen items was over $2,000, according to Jota.

Jota said he heard that many people, mostly foreigners, have been victimized by these laptop thieves.

The victim suggested that DPS detectives interrogate those they've arrested so they will learn how the thieves operate, identify the buyers, recover the laptops, and return them to the rightful owners.

Saipan Tribune learned that about 10 theft cases involving laptops have occurred at apartments in Finasisu and San Vicente alone in the past few months. These cases were not reported to the media.

An apartment occupant in San Vicente recently offered a $1,000 cash reward to anyone who could return his laptop.

Over the weekend, police arrested a teenager who allegedly stole a laptop computer from a barracks in San Antonio.

It was earlier reported that police officers recovered the Gateway laptop, worth $900, owned by a 27-year-old Chinese woman. But court documents show that the laptop had not been recovered.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Live-fire exercises on Farallon de Medinilla

SANTA RITA, Guam—The U.S. Navy will conduct live-fire exercises on the island of Farallon de Medinilla on Sept. 14, from 11am to 11pm.

The general location of this activity will be on the island of Farallon de Medinilla Training Area on a 10-nautical mile radius on all quadrants. The public—especially fisherman, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from this area during the time and date indicated.

Farallon de Medinilla plays a special and unique role in national defense because its location provides access frequency that supports established training requirements. In addition, the air and sea space in the Farallon provides sufficient room for the many different attack profiles necessary to replicate training opportunities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. ***(USN)***

Farmers meeting for election of SNISWCD administrators

The Department of Land and Natural Resources and the Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District will conduct a meeting to elect District Board Administrators on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009 at the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan. In accordance to Public Law 4-44 that established the Soil and Water Conservation District in the CNMI, the election term is for FY 2009-2010.

The event will be conducted by Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Dr. Ignacio T. Dela Cruz and will take place on Tuesday, Sept. 15, 2009, from 6pm to 7pm at the Garapan Fishing Base in Garapan. We encourage all farmers and ranchers to attend this very important meeting. Farmers and ranchers who would like to know more about this meeting can contact the local Saipan and Northern Islands SWCD office at 234-6180 and ask for Diana Gabaldon. ***(PR)***

CUC has seven new certified linemen

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña, third from left standing, joins other agency officials and seven CUC linemen right after completing a two-year U.S. certification training for linemen conducted by the Hawaii-based Pacific Lineman Training LLC's Harry "Spike" Speicher, second from right back row, yesterday afternoon.

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
mosa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. presented yesterday seven employees who just completed a rigorous two-year course to become fully certified as professional linemen.

In a ceremony, CUC executive director Tony Muña said these seven are the first group of linemen who acquired professional training under the expertise of Harry Speicher, of the Pacific Lineman Training in Hawaii.

He said these employees invested a lot of time and went through a lot of hard work to complete the training.

"It's been a long road for them. [Completing the two-year program] is an investment in time and we really appreciate that they stuck with the training. This is a win-win situation for CUC and the employees," he said during the commencement rites yesterday.

Muña disclosed that it is the agency's desire to enforce the program across the board so all CUC personnel could be certified.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC had no certified lineman onboard prior to yesterday's completion ceremony.

"This is just a beginning and we want to do it across the board for our mechanics and other employees to develop their skills for better delivery of services," Muña said, adding that certification of CUC employees will ensure the proper, safe, and efficient manner of performing their responsibilities.

"This will increase the quality of service of our CUC," Muña added.

Speicher, along with Muña and other CUC officials, awarded certificates of completion to Richard Cruz, Al Mahora, Henry Rabauliman, Jose Manibusan, Redson Herwin, Fred Lizama, and Johnny Santos.

Santos, who has been with CUC for 13 years now, said he appreciates the support and assistance that CUC provided its employees.

Like the six other linemen, Santos said he is more confident now of doing his job and meeting expectations as a lineman.

To finish the two-year program, all seven linemen diligently attended two-week sessions every two months. There were a total of eight two-week sessions conducted.

With the anticipated federalization of CNMI immigration come Nov. 28, Santos hopes the "U.S. certification" he acquired would help him stay on the job.

According to Speicher, CUC stands to get nine additional "certified" linemen once the second batch of employees meet all the requirements of the program in November.

He said the training provided is tailored for the Pacific islands and was started three years ago in American Samoa.

"Like everybody in the Pacific, this training will help employees run a utility in a real, safe, and efficient manner," Speicher said.

26 Saipan beaches are red-flagged

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on 26 sites on Saipan and advises the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

Samples collected from Tanapag Meeting Hall Beach, Central repair Shop, DPW Channel Bridge, South Puerto Rico dump, Smiling Cove Marina, American Memorial Park drainage, Micro Beach, Hyatt Hotel beach, Fiesta Resort drainage, Hafa-Adai Hotel beach, Hafa-Adai drainage, Garapan Fishing Dock, Garapan Beach, Garapan Beach drainage, San Jose beach, World Resort beach, Grand Hotel beach, Community School beach, Sugar Dock, Chalan Kanoa Dist. 2 drainage, San Antonio beach, PIC beach, San Antonio lift station, Jeffry's Beach, Hidden Beach and Old Man By the Sea Beach on Saipan were found to contain concentrations of enterococci that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These fecal indicator bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

Samples from Rota did not exceed the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. Therefore, DEQ assigns all of the sampled beach sites a green flag.

Managaha and Tinian beaches were not sampled this week.

DEQ analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 50 locations on Saipan, 10 on Tinian, 12 on Rota and a total of 11 samples from the shore surrounding Managaha.

Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp/section.aspx?secID=4 and http://www.cnmicoralreef.net/wq/beachcloseweeklyresults.htm.

For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

A DAY

From Page 1

died at the World Trade Center eight years ago Friday, planned to grieve at a morning wreath-laying ceremony in Boston and hear his name read out loud. Then she planned to install drywall at a low-income home in south Boston with Habitat for Humanity, one of thousands of volunteer efforts planned since Sept. 11 was declared a national day of service.

"Everyone has a different way of mourning," she said. "Some people keep it absolutely sacred. For me, this is something that gives us solace."

The combination of mourning and national giving was troubling to some who feared the volunteerism would overshadow a somber day to remember the four hijacked jetliners that crashed into the twin towers, the Pentagon and a Pennsylvania field, killing nearly 3,000 people, most in New York.

"When I first heard about it, I was concerned," said Debra Burlingame, whose brother was the pilot of the American Airlines jet that crashed into the Pentagon. "I fear, I greatly fear, at some point we'll transition to turning it into Earth Day where we go and plant trees and the remembrance part will become smaller and smaller and smaller."

Thousands were expected at now-familiar ceremonies in New York, at the Pentagon and at the crash site of United Airlines Flight 93 in a Shanksville, Pa., field.

At a park southeast of ground zero, family members were to join with volunteers who made firefighters meals or removed tons of debris from the smoldering trade center site to read victims' names. Four moments of silence were planned in New York—for when jetliners crashed into each tower and for when each tower collapsed. Vice President Joseph Biden was to attend the ceremony.

A wreath was to be laid at a memorial to the Pentagon, where 184 people died when a jet slammed into the building. President Barack Obama and Department of Defense Secretary Robert Gates were to meet with victims' family members.

The president would "speak about what the day means and the sacrifices of thousands, not just at the Pentagon, but in Pennsylvania and certainly and most obviously in New York," White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Thursday. The president on Thursday pledged to "apprehend all those who perpetrated these heinous crimes, seek justice for those who were killed and defend against all threats to our national security."

In Pennsylvania, the names of the 40 passengers and crew of United 93 were to be read at 10:03 a.m., the time the plane crashed.

Jose Melendez-Perez, a customs agent credited with refusing U.S. entry to a man officials believe was supposed to be the fifth hijacker aboard the flight, was going to the site for the first time. Former Secretary of State Colin Powell was giving the keynote speech.

Across the country, a fundraiser to repair storm damage at Central Park, beach cleanups and repairs of homeless shelters were among the organized efforts to give back. Obama and Congress declared Sept. 11 a day of service earlier this year.

A Cleveland service organization planned to paint pies cooling, flower vases and sleeping cats resting on windowsills on boarded-up, abandoned properties in a Slavic neighborhood.

A Boston group founded by victims' family members—two of the four planes left from Boston—planned to write letters to U.S. soldiers overseas and pack care packages. Over 100 volunteers in San Jose, Calif., planned to plant fruit and vegetable gardens for low-income families.

The attacks killed 40 people in Pennsylvania, 184 at the Pentagon and 2,752 in New York.

This year, one new name will be read—a victim added to New York's death toll in January. The medical examiner's office ruled that Leon Heyward, who died last year of lymphoma and lung disease, was a homicide victim because he was caught in the toxic dust cloud just after the towers collapsed.

It's the second time the city has added to the victims' list someone who died long after Sept. 11, ruling that exposure to toxic dust caused lung disease.

AGGREKO

From Page 1

based firm, which brought its power generators online last Sept. 12, 2008.

Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Tony Muña said the company is expected to immediately move its equipment to another location.

Some parts of Garapan experienced an unscheduled power outage around 10am yesterday but Muña said this was caused by a line fault in Feeder 2.

He said recent power interruptions in other places were also mainly due to problems in the transmission distribution lines.

"As far as power generation requirement is concerned, after we disconnected Aggreko, we're ready," Muña said.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC's Power Plant 1 is now capable of producing 35.5 megawatts of power, an increase of 27.5 MW from Sept. 11, 2008, when it was producing just 8 MW. At that time, CUC's main power plant was 15 MW short to ensure 24-hour service for Saipan.

Besides the initial $6 million contract, Muña said CUC incurred no additional costs for the Aggreko deal.

"They're paid in full…and whatever we agreed upon, that's what we paid for," he said.

The one-year contract with Aggreko allowed CUC to turn off its power engines for a much needed maintenance and rehabilitation work.

Before that, power outages would go for an hour to eight hours and for up to four times a day, resulting in public outrage against CUC and the government. Days before Aggreko generators were commissioned, a rally was held during which CUC customers asked the federal government to put CUC under receivership, among other things.

The government earlier said that CUC's capacity now is "more than capable of replacing Aggreko's current output of 15 MW plus a reserve."

It assured continuous maintenance of all the power plants.

The U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs helped provide millions in federal funds for the rehabilitation of the power plants.

Because of the rolling blackouts and needed engine rehabilitation in the summer of last year, the government declared a state of emergency for CUC in August 2008 and has been extending it every month.

GUAM

From Page 1

GVB board chair David B. Tydingco, along with 12 other board members, is convinced the Department of Homeland Security is not ready to implement the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 on Nov. 28 this year.

That law, Public Law 110-229, extends the application of the Immigration and Nationality Act to the CNMI. Its intent is to establish six ports of entry in the Commonwealth to enable the Secretary of Homeland Security to administer and enforce the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program, and to allow for the application of U.S. immigration laws in the CNMI.

It is also intended to establish requirements for nonimmigrant visitors wanting to go to Guam or the CNMI under the visa waiver program.

"The delay in implementation of P.L. 110-229 will allow time for the DHS to implement additional security measures such as electronic travel authorization, biometric entry-exit requirements, and other border patrol security infrastructure in the CNMI to address security concerns as well as cooperate with China in reducing the rate of nonimmigrant visa refusals," the GVB resolution stated.

P.L. 110-229 excluded two important tourism markets—China and Russia—from the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver Program.

Recently, the CNMI Marianas Visitors Authority adopted a resolution urging Guam Delegate Madeleine Bordallo and CNMI Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan to introduce legislation that would indefinitely delay the federalization law.

It cited, among other things, the impact to the CNMI of losing both Chinese and Russian markets.

MVA earlier disclosed that Russian and Chinese visitors accounted for 20 percent of the total number of tourists who visited the islands in FY 2008.

The agency estimated that it stands to lose $66.7 million in direct impact and $218.3 million in indirect impact in a 12-month period if it loses these markets.

The DHS had rejected the proposal to include Russia and China in the visa waiver program due to security and political concerns.

'Consensus'

Press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. welcomed yesterday the support shown by the Guam bureau.

"We welcome this development and we're very appreciative of their support to the CNMI tourism and economy," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Reyes said the resolution only shows that there is a "consensus" in the idea of delaying federalization.

"This is another indication of the consensus in this region. …We're all asking to delay the implementation," he said, expressing hope that there will be positive action in Congress since majority in the affected areas have spoken their piece.

In the CNMI, the Fitial administration, Legislature, business groups, and community members have expressed their support to delay anew the law's implementation.

"It's not in our control [the decision to delay]…but it's the right thing to do and we're going to fight for what is right whether it is feasible or not," Reyes said, adding that everybody acknowledges that DHS is not ready at this time.

"We're united on this issue and there is no logical choice but to delay it…" he added.

BABAUTA

From Page 1

and familiarity with the people and the policies of the U.S. insular areas and the freely associated states. The department looks forward to the outstanding leadership that he will provide."

Babauta, who served as the staff director for the U.S. House Natural Resources Committee, was nominated by Obama to the position on July 6.

The U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources held a confirmation hearing on Babauta's nomination July 28, and on Aug. 24, reported Babauta's nomination to the full Senate with the recommendation that he be confirmed.

Congratulations

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (D-MP), Delegate Madeleine Bordallo (D-Guam), the Fitial administration and Rep. Diego T. Benavente, chairman of the CNMI House Committee on Foreign and Federal Relations, congratulated Babauta on his confirmation.

"Mr. Babauta is the very first islander to become the Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs. So his achievement is both his own and that of all people from the U.S. insular areas," Sablan said.

Sablan added he is "confident" that Babauta will not only serve Obama and Salazar with distinction, "but that Tony will do his utmost to work for the best interests of the people of his home in Guam and of American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands as well."

Bordallo, for her part, said Babauta's confirmation is evidence of the confidence that Obama and Congress have in him.

"I congratulate Tony and I am confident that he will be an effective policy maker and leader on insular issues. His confirmation...is a great achievement and we look forward to working with him as he advances federal policies of the Obama administration for Guam, the territories and the Freely Associated States. This is a proud day for our people," she said.

CNMI press secretary Charles Reyes said the Fitial administration will work with all federal leaders to address the CNMI's most pressing issues, including the economy, federal immigration, federal funding, alternative energy, and the federal minimum wage, among other important issues.

"We welcome dialogue with members of Congress, their staff, and appointed members of the U.S. administration," he said.

Postponed visit

Babauta was supposed to visit Saipan and meet with the governor and members of the CNMI Legislature on Aug. 24.

The visit was postponed because his nomination was not confirmed before the U.S. Congress went into recess early last month.

Benavente said the confirmation of Babauta will be good not only for Guam but also for the CNMI and the Pacific islands.

"Over the years, the complaint has always been that federal officials don't understand us. In this case, we can no longer say that because Tony Babauta understands the islands. He is from Guam, he is from the Pacific islands," Benavente added.

Also confirmed by the U.S. Senate on Thursday were Gary Guzy, deputy director of the Office of Environmental Quality, and John Fernandez, assistant Commerce secretary.

'Uniquely qualified'

Sablan said Babauta is "uniquely qualified for his new position as assistant secretary by virtue of his many years with [Congress] working on insular issues."

"Of particular note, Mr. Babauta was instrumental in the passage of legislation that provided a seat in the House for Representatives for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands," he said. "I would like to thank the president for his selection of Mr. Babauta. I recommended Tony for this position; and I look forward to working with him in his new position as assistant secretary in the days and years to come."

Babauta is the son of Antonio and Mary Babauta of Agat, Guam. He graduated from Fr. Duenas Memorial School in 1987 and graduated from Gonzaga University.

Bordallo and other congressional delegates representing the territories called for and supported the elevation of responsibility for policy affecting the insular areas inside the Department of the Interior to the assistant secretary level.

Close relationships

Babauta, in his congressional position, advised the full House Natural Resources Committee on policies affecting the U.S. territories of Guam, American Samoa, the United States Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and the CNMI, as well as the Freely Associated States of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands, and Palau.

Babauta joined the House Natural Resources Committee in 1998 as professional staff under its then-ranking member, Rep. George Miller. His service to the committee continued under then ranking member and now chairman, Rep. Nick Rahall.

During the U.S. Senate's hearing on his nomination, Babauta said his commitment is to work toward improving the quality of life in he insular areas by providing the necessary leadership and insisting on measurable results.

"I believe in forging a new beginning for the islands. I believe that if we intend to move forward, we must reject the one-size-fits-all approach. I believe we must embrace an approach that contains real measures for policy success," he told senators.

Bills to earmark $1.61M for Rota casino commission, liaison office

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Victor Hocog introduced two bills seeking to appropriate a total of $1.61 million for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission and the Rota Liaison Office.

House Bill 16-270 seeks to earmark $1.6 million from the Marianas Public Land Trust revenues for the Rota Casino Gaming Commission for Fiscal Year 2010. The money will be used for the commission's personnel costs and for contractual obligations.

Hocog also introduced House Local Bill 16-44, which seeks to appropriate $10,000 from the local license fees collected from pachinko slot machines and poker machines on Rota under the expenditure authority of the Rota mayor.

During Tuesday's session, Rep. Joseph Reyes (R-Saipan) also introduced HLB 16-45, to name an existing unnamed road off Tapochau Road "Chief Aiken Trail," after the late Peter Steve "Chief" Aiken.

Aiken initiated the removal and disposal of World War II unexploded ordnance in the CNMI in the early 1970s.

Also introduced during the session was House Resolution 16-98, authored by Rep. Ray Palacios, expressing appreciation to Luis Reyes, his wife and children for their hard work and dedication in volunteering their time in coaching and educating the youth in the ongoing Rotary Youth Basketball League.

During the session, the House also adopted a standing committee report recommending passage of a substitute measure for Senate Bill 16-27. The bill seeks to establish a licensing requirement for all contractors operating in the CNMI.

It would also add a new member to the Board of Professional Licensing to represent contractors, and names the building safety official from the Department of Public Works as an ex-officio member.

Six residents undergo classes to obtain USCG captain's licenses

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Six Saipan residents who are potential boat captains are currently undergoing classes with the Adams Marine Seminars, a U.S. Coast Guard-approved captain's license school.

Capt. Chris Adams and his father, Capt. Mike Adams, served as instructors of the classes held at the Pacific Islands Club's Magellan Room.

Mike Adams is president of the Adams Marine Seminars. The company has been holding classes for potential boat captains on Saipan the past seven years and the past 10 years in Guam.

"What we do is we teach classes for people that get their Coast Guard-issued captain's license," Chris Adams said in an interview Wednesday.

Chris Adams said they teach the class, administer the exam, and give certificates for those who pass.

The students will then mail the certificates to the U.S. Coast Guard with their respective application package. The Coast Guard will process the applications and, after two months, issue the boat license to successful applicants.

"What I do is on the very first day of class, I go over their application package with them. I show them exactly, I guide them in filling it out. I also check their application package before going to class," Chris Adams said.

He said the main course is called "Operator of Uninspected Passenger Vessels," which is also called a six-pack license because the licensee can operate a boat that carries six passengers up to 100 miles in U.S. territorial waters.

Chris Adams said the six-pack license is good for the CNMI, Guam, California, Texas, American Samoa or everywhere up to 100 miles off shore in U.S. territorial waters.

The instructor said the students should have 360 total days of boat operating experience in their lifetime.

"Once they come up with that 360 days, they can take the class with me," he said.

In the class, Chris Adams said, students are thoroughly briefed on international boating rules and rules of the road, which are guidelines that have been internationally agreed upon and adopted by countries that are members of International Maritime Organization.

In the CNMI, he said, they conduct a 56-hour class, seven days a week.

"What we do is we stretched the class to eight-hour days. That way, it give the students one more additional day to learn the materials," he said.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Jasper Pedro applies mouth-to-mouth resuscitation on a dummy as Adams Marine Seminars instructor Chris Adams, extreme right, and other potential boat captains look on during their classes at the Pacific Islands Club's Magellan Room on Wednesday.

"Because when you get into a situation offshore, you can't go back to a rule book and open up the book and see who has the right of way, to see how the lights are, and what type of vessels. You have no time to do it. So you have to pass the exam with a 90 percent score for our four different tests for the six-pack license," he said.

After the six-pack license class, the students will take the upgrade class, the master upgrade, which means operating a vessel that can carry more than six passengers.

The Adams just completed last month the same classes for Rota and Tinian students. He said most of the students used available funding from the Workforce Investment Agency.

One of the students, Wence Aquino, 53, said he is very happy that he obtained funding from WIA to join the class because he could not afford it by himself.

Aquino said it was Capt. Benigno Sablan who encouraged him to avail of the funding from WIA.

DISABILITY ADVOCATES

Guam Gov. Felix P. Camacho swears in members of the Guam Developmental Disabilities Council at the Guam Developmental Disabilities general meeting held Sept. 9, 2009, at the Hilton Guam Resort & Spa. From left, Noel Lizaga, member; May Camacho, assistant superintendent, SPED-GDOE; Andrew Tydingco, member; Erlinda Tydingco, member; Kristina Perez, program coordinator, GDDC; and Governor Felix P. Camacho. Each U.S. state and territory has a Developmental Disabilities Council, which exists to increase the independence, productivity, inclusion, and community integration of individuals with developmental disabilities. The council is comprised of 27 members, 16 of whom are individuals with developmental disabilities and are parents or guardians of individuals with developmental disabilities. The remaining 11 are representatives of each major state agency and non-government organizations that serves individuals with developmental disabilities in Guam.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Front row, from left, Evelyn Duenas, member, and Josephine Cortez, first vice-chairperson, GDDC. Back row, from left: Ella Cruz, outgoing member; Raymond Salas, program coordinator, DPHSS-DPH; Marie Libria, program coordinator IV, GDDC; Rosanne Ada, director, DISID; Esther Arca, second vice chairperson, GDDC; Ma. Theresa Arcangel, human services program administrator, DPHSS; Joseph Manibusan, deputy director, DOA; Claire Duenas, member; May Camacho, assistant superintendent, SPED-GDOE; Teresita Fejarang, associate director, University of Guam CEDDERS; Benny Pinaula, executive director, GHURA; Governor Felix P. Camacho; Erlinda Tydingco, new member; Andrew Tydingco, new member; Noel Lizaga, new member; John A. Cruz, new member; Ana Marie Kilroy, new member; June Perez, member; Kristina Perez, program coordinator, GDDC.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XIX, Issue No. 219

Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950

Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSISTANT EDITOR

MEMBER
The Associated Press
Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Dollars and sense

President Obama took care of the easy tasks Wednesday in his much-anticipated speech to Congress on health care reform. He laid out the main provisions he's looking for in a comprehensive bill, and provided a clear and powerful rationale for fundamental change. But the steps he endorsed—including new regulations on insurers and help for the uninsured to obtain coverage—already have broad support from industry lobbyists and lawmakers. The hard part, in terms of both policy and politics, is finding a way to pay for the expansion in coverage. And on that most contentious issue, unfortunately, Obama argued that Congress could cover most of the cost by attacking waste, fraud and abuse in Medicare and Medicaid—a pain-free path that's as unrealistic as it is alluring.

Advocates of a health care overhaul, including this page, had been urging Obama to provide more details about the measures he would support and why they were necessary. The president delivered Wednesday night in stirring terms, outlining a plan to give the insured a more secure hold on their coverage and the uninsured access to more affordable policies. The plan would require the vast majority of Americans to obtain coverage, while mandating that large employers provide insurance benefits or contribute to the cost of their employees' individual policies.

As Obama noted, though, health care reform wasn't about to be derailed by those proposals. The challenge for those who want a comprehensive bill is more in the politics—in particular, the allegation that "Obamacare" is a government takeover of the health care system, burdening taxpayers with a ruinously expensive new obligation. The president offered a persuasive response to part of that critique, making the case that the flaws in the current system threaten all Americans. He soft-pedaled the controversial "public option" plan, and portrayed his plan as a melding of Republican and Democratic ideas with the same moral underpinning as Social Security and Medicare. Those initiatives were also branded "socialism" or a "government takeover," Obama noted, subtly warning opponents that they risk being on the wrong side of history.

Still, the president's comments about the savings available in Medicare were disingenuous, as was his assertion that a new tax on insurers would lead them to "provide greater value for the money" instead of simply passing the cost on to policyholders. Obama will have to come up with a more complete approach to paying for reform as the legislation moves forward. He claimed the plan as his own with this speech, but he left some of the hardest questions unanswered.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Obama, the man in the health care middle

By DOYLE MCMANUS
(C) 2009, LOS ANGELES TIMES

President Barack Obama rediscovered his inner centrist Wednesday night, forced by the arithmetic of congressional politics and the federal budget to trim his health care proposals to a new, more modest size.

On the surface, Obama's speech to Congress was aimed at shoring up sagging public support for health care reform by promising worried citizens that he won't bust the budget, won't force people to give up insurance they like and won't set up "death panels" to ration care for the elderly.

But the most important audience wasn't really the folks at home; it was the divided Democrats in Congress, plus one or two stray Republicans, whose help Obama needs to get a law passed.

For them, the president's message was double-edged. Liberals who had hoped for a big, government-run plan got a cold shower—a warning from the president that if they hold out for everything they want, they might get nothing at all.

But for centrist "Blue Dogs" who want to keep federal spending down—and who want to get re-elected next year from conservative districts—the president's message was a rousing "I'm on your side."

To make the plan attractive to the Blue Dogs, Obama promised that the cost of the bill would come in around $900 billion over 10 years, down from the $1.2 trillion most Democrats started with. He also promised spending cuts that would kick in automatically if costs turn out higher than expected. To help pay for his plan, he proposed a backdoor tax on high-end health insurance policies that will be hard for some labor unions to swallow (although it makes good economic sense). And he promised that 95 percent of small businesses wouldn't be required to pay for their employees' health insurance, a deep bow to the power of small business (or at least, the gauzy image of "small business") in the nation's heartland.

And what did liberals get? A stirring tribute to the importance of a "public option," the government-run insurance plan beloved by the left—followed immediately by an offer to do without, if that's what's needed to pass a bill. Obama also promised that the plan would go most but not all the way toward providing insurance to the uninsured, and that it would include consumer protections, so that people no longer would lose coverage after getting sick or go bankrupt because their costs exceeded their insurance.

In the end, the speech won't spare Obama from the charge from the Republican right that he is a closet socialist who wants the government to take over health care; that has become an article of faith among many conservatives, and a few fiscal compromises won't shake it. But it does set up a test for Obama's liberal supporters, in Congress and across the nation: Will they take their president's advice and settle for half a loaf?

Obama said he wouldn't "waste time" debating health care with most Republicans anymore because they wanted only to kill his plan. Nevertheless, pieces of the plan appeared tailored to the tastes of the last two GOP senators who might vote for an Obama-sponsored bill, Olympia Snowe and Susan Collins, both from Maine. Snowe has proposed a "trigger" that would allow the government to set up a public-option plan if private insurance companies didn't meet expectations. Collins has said she's mostly just worried about the overall costs.

But the real debate has been among Democrats all along. They have giant majorities in both houses, but they are also deeply divided. Liberals who have fought for health care reform for decades are disappointed that they can't get Canadian-style, government-run health care. The Blue Dogs, mostly from conservative constituencies in the South and mountain West, are terrified that a bill that looks too liberal or too expensive will mean they lose their jobs in November 2010.

So now the dance of legislation enters a period of negotiations between liberals and Blue Dogs, House members and senators. The Senate Finance Committee will try to settle on a compromise proposal, shaped mostly by Blue Dogs and those two Maine senators, sometime in mid-September.

The House will vote for a big-government version of health care reform, including a public-option plan, that will give liberals the brief pleasure of a chance to vote yes and endangered Blue Dogs an equally welcome chance to vote no. The Senate will vote for a bill with no public option, although it might have Snowe's trigger idea. In late October, members of the two houses will meet to wrestle over the final details.

If all that works, a bill that looks something like the plan Obama described will be passed before the end of the year.

Obama hasn't provided complete clarity on the details, but he finally has provided clarity on how to get there, and that figures to be enough.

The outcome won't be perfect in anyone's eyes. But if Congress actually passes legislation the president signs into law, it would be the most important piece of health care legislation since Medicare was established in 1965—and no small achievement for a president who critics still dismiss as a liberal dreamer.

McManus is a Times *columnist. He can be reached at doyle.mcmanus@latimes.com.*

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, CIC Centre, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

America by rails: On the sunset limited to Los Angeles

Travel notes, live and on virtual time (a social commentary)

Part 2

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

Hawks fly high as one approaches the Guadalupe Mountains National Park northwest of Big Bend in Texas and the bush stands green over the brownish shrubs. The image has recently been flaunted in a parody about George Bush being really a George Shrub, which may be funny to some, not unlike the racial jokes of the '60s and '70s, but may not resonate to many in today's politically correct moralism and emerging glocal sensibilities.

When we are no longer capable of respecting the integrity of someone's ideas, either in agreement or disagreement, we resort to the tactic of personality assassination or adulation, both of which negates the authenticity of valid discourse.

The diner car of the Sunset Limited in this trip became a point of contention between the maître 'd and some passengers who found him to be a bit snotty. Following the tradition of European trains, particularly the old Paris-to-Istanbul run of the Orient Express, our dining room director might have read one too many Agatha Christie mystery novels, for he runs the food pantry like it had chandeliers, blue willow China, and silver cutleries, with passengers coming to dinner in their fineries.

Of the three passenger coach cabins, there is a high percentage of man'amko and physically obese people. Man'amko who are 62 years old and above get a 10 percent discount so that explains their number. The obese people would not fit in regular airline seats. The train coach seats are not all taken so there's a lot of space to hold and spread the midribs. There are quite a few insulin-shooting brothers and sisters on this trip. An inordinate number of disestablishment Latinos and blacks of the lower income class are on board. Infirmed elderly have their numbers with their universal demands for luggage carts as well as priority rights to chairs and the front of the line. Then there are young families with children.

One might get an idea why the maitre 'd was hot under the collar since his clientele are the counting-every-penny kind. He had organized the dining schedule by reservation like the old Waldorf-Astoria. The breakfast, lunch and dinner times are announced, and he comes around to take reservation requests, first to the sleeper section, and then to the coach section. One young man busy on his computer asked what was the special meal for the day, and the maître 'd replied with a curt response: "The menu is printed outside the diner's door." The young man was wearing cutoffs and an undershirt, and I suspected that the retort was more to discourage the young man from proceeding to the diner.

The maître 'd, decked in his three-piece suit and bright tie, looking by hairdo and smile like Amtrak's head Joe Broadman, clearly wants to make it known that control of the kitchen and the dining room was his prerogative, and he was not about to surrender his domain to ill-attired and above the poverty line customers. This analysis came from four people who happened to consistently come into the dining room on the last call—a former teacher Afro-Am woman, a dyslexic self-made young man, a female Vegan college student and I. We did do a random sampling of the people around our seats, and our judgment on the maître 'd's stance and behavior as less than to be desired was right on the consensus. But I had a hard time convincing my "last call to the diner" group not to be too harsh on our uppity butler-acting maître 'd as a person and to zero on the quality of our dining as a choice rather than dependent on the actuations of the hired help!

There is a Grand Central station type in El Paso. The crawl in revealed a tall and huge Mexican flag flying in the near South, presumably the border station to Ciudad Juarez. The downtown area was fully Iberian, though the signs remain exclusively English. Unlike Chicago where public signage has become bilingual, the movement to require English as the sole language of official and public use is very strong in the South.

The AMTRAK Superliner bodies are tall and bulky. They are two-story high and at 70 miles per hour, have a propensity to sway. The bulkiness make it look like an elongated Humvee and the rails primarily built for freight on the long haul does not lend itself to solid and steady footing, in the same manner as the Eisenhower Interstate Highway system, which favors the trucking business as sorely in disrepair. The amenities inside the train, however, are nice, with the observation deck a favored feature. Bathrooms are clean, though I must confess irritation when two stewards separately inquired if I flushed. I must look like one of the "wetbacks" newly arrived!

Getting into the flat desert of New Mexico, with Albuquerque up north and the Mexican cordilleras down south, gave the scenery a veneer of Hollywood cowboy-and-Indians movie set. The clear wide span was poster perfect. Nut orchards finally emerged, along with a winery that processed the fruit of the vine.

Soon, the dark night in the plain and the train, easily gave way to reflections on the dark night of the soul. The experienced fear/rage incident in the roundabout at Sugarland elicited a comment from my Alaskan Afro-Am colleague who said, "I have learned long time ago that, just because we have a lot of assholes, I did not need to be one, too." Yet, the display of anger is deemed to be psychologically healthy by many therapist, and strategically encouraged by no less than Pope Gregory the Great who said: "Reason opposes evil the more effectively when anger ministers at her side." Our fear, anger, and humiliation-based personalities await to be overcome.

How often in the last decade have I listened to otherwise level-headed neighbors mistake war as a showing of strength, and coercion as the symbol of courage. Dick Cheney in the news is still arguing for the rightness of splitting hairs in the torture methods applied post-9/11 interrogations.

A Marine aboard the train did his stint between Beirut, Lebanon and the Gulf War. He never gave up the haircut, and still called me "sir" in conversation, but he is clear in his mind that war-mongering, or even the notion that the United States must always be in a permanent state of alert, and not just preparedness, to go to war, is a big mistake. He chuckled when he read a line from a letter-to-the-editor writer who responded to one of my articles about how I might not be in being, had the Homeland Security people and the Department of Defense not foisted the alarm against terrorist post-9/11.

Traversing New Mexico and Arizona with a stop in Tucson long enough for nicotine breaks for passengers pretty much made the night. Morning met us with orchards of the flowers of the desert (wind turbines) in Palm Springs, and their controversial but now famous casino. Not a few beautiful tax shelter horse farms and ranchos in the foothills are up for sale, casualties of the new economic dispensation. The once fragrant orange orchards from Redlands, Ontario, Pomona to Pasadena are now punctuated or replaced by various storage lots, warehouses and truck/freight depots, marring the agrarian view of rustic fruit farms of my acquaintance in the early '60s when the smog-laden valley south of the San Bernardino range still displayed clear blue skies.

It being L.A., graffiti is writ eternal, and the ubiquitous flea markets are in full swing—yen, rmb, pesos, euros and won accepted. Welcome to the city of fallen Angels.

Mother-daughter road map

By SUSAN REIMER
(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

They say that the work of a parent is never done. It just changes.

It is a truism that carries a lot of baggage for those of us who came of age in the era of professional motherhood, when their report card might as well have been our report card. When we were only as happy as our most unhappy child.

Now those children are young adults, and those hyper-involved chickens have come home to roost, especially in the always-fraught relationship between mothers and daughters.

In the new book "Too Close for Comfort?" authors Linda Perlman Gordon and Susan Morris Shaffer make the case for a healthy disengagement. And it is the mothers (isn't it always the mothers?) who need to leave the room.

"There are consequences to being your daughter's personal concierge," Shaffer said.

And it isn't just that she won't learn how to make her own airline reservations. Mothers who continue to be the fixer and the rescuer deny their daughters the chance to become independent, to become competent.

Gordon is a family therapist in Washington and has learned much from her patients. Shaffer is executive director of the Maryland State Parental Information Resource Center. Both have adult daughters in their 30s, and they know this territory well.

The boundaries between mothers and daughters have shifted, they say. At no time in recent history has one generation had so much in common with the next. College educations, workplace experience. You can probably add music, fashion, politics and multiple sex partners, too.

We think we can guide our daughters through these thickets, if only they would listen to us. We are probably right, but Shaffer and Gordon argue that they need to find their own way.

"We don't want to give up our mother-daughter relationships with our adult daughters because they are such a source of comfort," said Shaffer.

Dinner out, a movie, shoe shopping, cooking together or traveling. BFFs.

"But at some point you want them to start giving back. To ask how your day was, to stop expecting to be the center of the universe," said Shaffer. "And that requires a different kind of parenting."

A kind of parenting that will produce its own kind of friction. It is possible our daughters will not like it when we withdraw the safety net, if we are not at their beck and call.

"They will define themselves by bumping up against us," said Gordon.

Their book defines a variety of mother-daughter relationship types. And there is a kind of work sheet that will help women think about their role as mother. Plus some strategies that will help mothers establish healthy boundaries and ground rules with daughters who have reaped the rewards, as well as the handicaps, of our kind of mothering.

This isn't likely to be a problem with our sons, the authors allow. Boys do not see their mothers as anything but mothers -- never as friends or as role models or as their future selves.

Our daughters, on the other hand, are waiting longer to marry and commit to a family of their own, and that means they are spending more time as our daughters. The poor economy and stagnant wages don't help them move toward independence, either.

"We didn't have that time to cultivate a relationship with our own mothers," said Shaffer. "We have time to work on this one."

Just because we are not screaming at each other over the pill or Nixon doesn't mean we are at the same stage in life. Just because we both like ballet flats doesn't mean we are equals. Just because we can hang out for an afternoon without someone storming out and slamming a door doesn't mean that we are friends.

So, what are we?

"We are all living longer," said Gordon. "You might have 50 healthy years together. You better figure it out."

E-mail Reimer at susan.reimer@baltsun.com.

Letter to the Editor

Judgment Day

It's not too long before the federal government will finally take over. It feels like Judgment Day is coming soon. Will the guest workers receive good news or will it lead us to an even sadder end? Honestly, I have mixed feelings, especially since we haven't seen anything yet. I hope that the federal government will be sympathetic to the guest workers and grant permanent residency, especially to the long-term guest workers, to those who have children with special needs, and to those who are married to FAS citizens. I pray that it will be a redeeming moment for the CNMI guest workers for, after all, the guest workers have been treated as second-class citizens by the local government. For one, it is because there is no unified organization that is asserting the workers' rights and for another, their mindset has always been that the guest workers do not deserve to be treated as full citizen as long they're accorded basic human rights and civil liberties. This is a surprise, especially for a place where people boast of being devout Catholics.

So as I write today, I continue to ask the federal government to please give a favorable consideration to the guest workers of the CNMI. You know that it is the fair thing to do.

May the Lord bless our hearts with genuine compassion, especially for those who have less in life.

Irene Nepomuceno-Tantiado
Savannakhet, Laos PDR

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms. Northeast winds 10 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
▲88° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Sunny	▲85	▼77
Palau	Showers	▲85	▼78
Yap	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼77
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲87	▼78
Pohnpei	Partly Sunny	▲89	▼74
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲88	▼76
Majuro	Partly Sunny	▲87	▼77

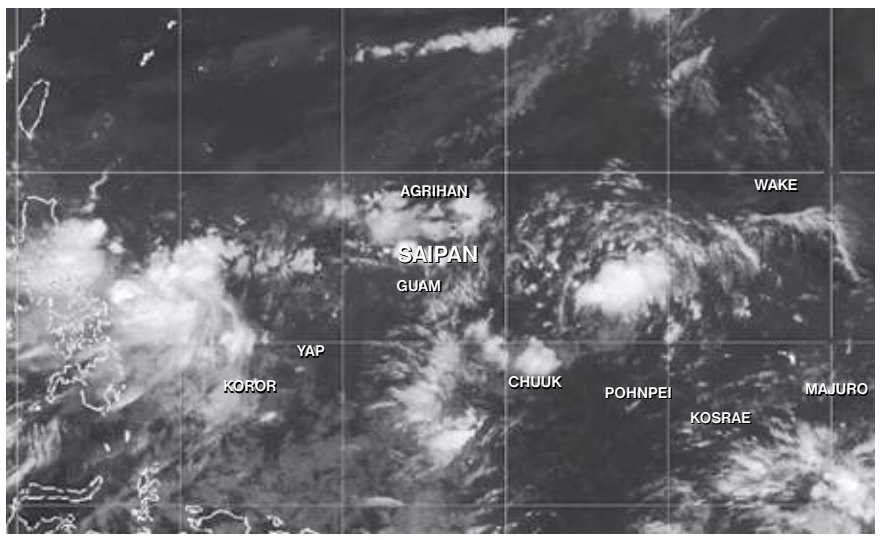
Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲61	▼54
Beijing	Cloudy	▲84	▼57
Hong Kong	Cloudy	▲91	▼82
Honolulu	Showers	▲85	▼75
London	Cloudy	▲68	▼54
Los Angeles	Cloudy	▲84	▼64
Manila	Rain	▲84	▼77
Melbourne	Cloudy	▲78	▼57
Miami	Thundershowers	▲91	▼78
New York	Showers	▲73	▼64
Osaka	Showers	▲80	▼63
Paris	Partly Sunny	▲68	▼50
Pusan	Cloudy	▲81	▼63
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	▲78	▼61
Salem	Sunny	▲92	▼53
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲71	▼58
Seoul	Showers	▲80	▼54
Tokyo	Rain	▲75	▼63
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲82	▼64

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
7:07 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet
2:46 PM Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
7:15 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.4 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00AM, FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from Luzon through a circulation centered just north of Koror near 12N136E to end at EQ151E. Converging winds south of the monsoon trough axis are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Palau between 6N and 13N from 130E to 135E and southwest of Chuuk within 105 miles of a line from EQ147E to 5N145E. Low-level convergence near the circulation and north of the monsoon trough is causing scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over Yap Tinian and Saipan within 115 miles of a line from 10N140E to 16N136E to 17N140E to 16N148E. Trade-wind convergence is combining with upper-level divergence associated with a high southwest of Wake Island to trigger scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk and east of the Marianas within 175 miles of a line from 6N148E to 13N153E to 14N160E to 9N162E. Similar conditions are also found over Tarawa and Butaritari atolls between the equator and 6N from 170E to 180 and northeast of Majuro between 8N and 15N from 173E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Sunday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Monday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Tuesday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:18 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today		12:36 PM
Sunday	12:04 AM	1:36 PM
Monday	1:07 AM	2:33 PM
Tuesday	2:11 AM	3:26 PM
Wednesday	3:14 AM	4:14 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 12, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

C0941	5:30am	8:05am	Daily
NW99	6:05am	8:40am	Daily
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	Daily via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily
C0943	5:25pm	8:00pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

C0942	9:25am	1:55pm	Daily
NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	Daily via NGO
NW100	8:45pm	1:20am+1	Daily
C0944	9:00pm	1:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of $160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

Schedule of Religious Services

CATHOLIC

Mt. Carmel Cathedral
Sunday Mass: 6am, 9am, 11am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm

Korean Center
Sunday: 10:30am
Wednesday: 10am
Thursday-Friday: 8pm
Saturday: 3pm and 7:30pm

Kristo Rai Parish
Sunday Mass: 6am, 8am and 9:30am
Monday- Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6am and 6pm
Saturday: 6am and 6pm

Nuestra Senora De Soledad Parish
Wednesday Mass: 6pm
First Friday Healing Mass: 6pm
Saturday Mass: 6pm
Sunday Masses: 7:30am & 9am

Saint Jude Parish
Sunday: 6am, 8am, 10am
Wednesday and Thursday: 6pm

San Antonio Parish
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Tuesday and Friday: 6pm

San Francisco de Borja-Rota
Sunday: 6am and 8am
Monday-Saturday: 6am
Wednesday: 6pm

San Isidro-Rota
Sunday: 5am and 10am
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm
Thursday-Saturday: 5am and 7pm

San Jose (Oleai) Parish
Sunday: 6am and 7:30am
Tuesday-Wednesday and Friday-Saturday: 6pm

San Roque Parish
Sunday: 9am
Wednesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10:30am

San Vicente Parish
Sunday: 6am, 9am and 6pm
Monday-Saturday: 6pm

Santa Remedios
Sunday: 7:30am
Tuesday: 6pm
Saturday: 10am-Baptism

Santa Soledad
Sunday: 7:30am

PROTESTANT

Born Again Christian (Upper Room Int'l Ministries), Saipan
Wednesday Prayer and Healing Night: 8-10:30pm
Saturday Tagalog Service: 8-10:30pm
Sunday English Service: 9:30-11am
Sunday School for Children: 10-11am
Sunday Filipino Service: 7-9pm

Calvary Baptist Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 9am
Sunday Morning Worship: 10am
Sunday Evening Worship: 6pm
Wednesday Prayer Service: 7pm

Chinese Christian Church of Saipan
Worship Services: Sunday, 10am and 7:30pm
Bible Study: Tuesday-Friday, 9:25pm

Cornerstone Christian Church, Saipan
Worship/Study Opportunities
Adult Sunday School: 9am
Youth Sunday School: 9am
English Worship Service Sunday: 10am
Sunday Service: 5:30pm
Worship/Fellowship Sunday: 9:30pm
Evangelism/Follow-up: Sunday/Monday: 1:30/7:30pm
Worship Team: Monday/Saturday-9pm;
Cell Groups Tuesday: 7:30pm
Mid-week Service: 7:30pm
Prayer Meeting Wednesday: 7:30pm
Leader's Bible Study Friday: 7:30 pm
Cornerstone School of Ministry Saturday: 7:30pm

Episcopal/Anglican Church on Saipan
St. Paul's Episcopal Church
Worship Service Sunday: Holy Communion 9:00am
Place: Vicarage, Chalan Laulau,
Call 235-0545 for directions

Grace Christian Assembly, Saipan
Worship Service: 9am
GBI Classes: 4-6pm
Prayer Meeting: Monday-Saturday: 6am
Sunday: 7am
Home Cell Bible Study: Wednesday-Friday: 7pm
Youth Service: Friday: 5:30pm

Iglesia Ni Cristo, Saipan
Wednesday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Thursday: 5:30am (English); 7:45 pm (English)
Saturday: 7:45pm (Tagalog)
Sunday: 6:45am (English)
Children Worship Service: Sunday, 9am (English)

Immanuel United Methodist Church Koblerville
Sunday Services
9:00 AM
Place of the church-next to Mt. Carmel Cathedral on Chalan Kanoa Dr. • Tel: 322-6158
Pastor JJ Matsumoto

Immanuel Methodist Church (Filipino Congregation)
Sunday: 7:00am-Choir Rehearsal
8:00am-Church Service (Tagalog)
9:15am-Sunday School
Wednesday: 6:30pm, home group
8:00pm-Prayer Meeting
Thursday: 7:30pm-Choir Practice (Church)
Saturday: 8:00pm-Choir Practice (Parsonage)

Jesus is Lord Church, Saipan
English Service: 9-11am, Sunday
Tagalog Service: 6-8pm, Sunday

Korean Presbyterian Church, Saipan
Sunday School: 8:20am
Sunday Adult: 10am
Sunday Adult: 11:30am
Sunday Evening: 7:30pm
Wednesday: 8pm

Life in the Son Christian Fellowship, Saipan
Sunday Worship Service: 10am–12noon
Tuesday: Leadership Institute 7pm-10pm
Wednesday: Corporate prayer 7pm-8pm
Last Friday of the month-prayer: 7pm-11pm
Friday: Youth on Fire: 7pm-9pm
Tel. No. 235-LIFE (5433)

Marianas Baptist Church, Saipan
English Worship Service: 9-10:30am
Evening Worship Service: 6-7pm
Children Sunday School: 9-10:30am
Tagalog Sunday School: 11am-12pm
English Sunday School: 11am-12pm
Korean Worship Service: 11am-12pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting:
English, 7pm-8pm
Korean: 8:30pm-9:30pm

Missions Connection Ministry
Every Sunday Celebrations:
10am (English), 6pm (Tagalog)
Wednesday Bible Study: 7pm
Youth Impact Friday: 7pm
Saturday Prayer Meeting: 7pm

Northern Marianas Christian Church
Sunday Worship Service 10am Fina Sisu Housing FS#1 (Child care will be provided)
Friday Services @ 7pm Fina Sisu FS#1 for more info pls. contact Ryan 484-2620

Saipan Bible Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30-10am
Divine Worship: 10am-11:30am
Evening Service: 7pm-8:30pm
Wednesday Prayer Meeting: 8pm-9pm

Saipan Christian Church
Sunday: 7:30am-10am
Sunday: 6:30 pm -9pm
Monday: 8 pm -10pm (Prayer Meeting)
Thursday: 8pm-10pm (Cell Groups)

Saipan Church of Christ
Sunday Bible Class: 9am
Sunday Worship: 10am
Sunday Worship English: 6pm
Sunday Worship Tagalog: 7pm
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:30pm

Saipan Community Church
(Sunday Services)
Palau Service: 7:30am-9am
English Service: 10am-11:30am
Chuukese Service: 1pm-2:30pm
Filipino Service: 5:00pm-7:00pm

Seventh-Day Adventist Church, Saipan
(Saturday Church Services)
Sabbath School Program: 9-10am
Lesson Study: 10-10:40am
Divine Service: 11-12pm
Visitation: 3-4pm
Adventist Youth Program: 4:30-5:30pm
Sundown Worship: 6-7pm

First Baptist Church
(Formerly Saipan Baptist Church)
Afetna St., San Antonio

Sunday		
	9am	Sunday school
	10am	Regular worship
	6pm	worship
Wednesday		
	7pm	worship

Everyone is warmly welcome to attend our worship services. Transportation is readily available to anyone who needs a ride to our church. For further information, please call Pastor David M. Mclure at 234-1939/235-7779.

Thy Word Ministries Saipan Faith Center
Phone 234-0209
New Christian Charismatic Church Service located in Chalan Paio, Beach Road in the Sablan building on the 2nd floor above Subway Sandwiches.
Senior Pastors: George & Gail Kamakahi
Asst. Pastors: Eric & Penny Sakaguchi
Service Times
Sunday 10:00am Worship Service
Sunday 7pm Discipleship Classes
Tuesday 10:00am Bible Studies
Tuesday 6:00pm Intercessory Prayer
Tuesday 7:00pm Music Practice
Wednesday 7:00pm Mid-Week Service
Saturday 10:00am Evangelism

Upper Room International Ministries

Sunday	5:30am-6:30am	
Morning prayer		
	7am-9am	English service
	7am-9am	Sunday school
	10am-12noon	English service, Koblerville
Wednesday	7pm-9pm	Prayer meeting
Saturday	7pm-9pm	Tagalog service

Venue: Jason Presbyterian Church
Gualo Rai, Saipan

Victory Chapel Christian Fellowship Church
Sunday School: 9:30am
Sunday AM Worship:10:30am
Sunday PM Worship:7:00am
Wed Worship: 7:30pm
Prayer 45 min. Prior to Service Times
Morning Prayer: 6-8am M-S

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 12, 2000

State of emergency not necessary Teno
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday ruled out declaration of state of emergency on Saipan, which municipal officials have sought following the damages on roads and vegetation wrought by tropical storm Saomai. But he said he had instructed public works department and other government agencies to undertake a cleanup as well as to respond to the needs of the community, including possible financial assistance. When asked whether this would require a special proclamation from his office, Mr. Tenorio maintained he "can not just declare a state of emergency" on the island.

NMI's remittance industry has new player
With Filipinos comprising almost half of the total population of nonresidents in the Northern Marianas, a United States based remittance company has opened a branch in the CNMI, joining the brewing competition in the money transfer industry here. U.S.-based U-iTeller commenced remittance operations between Saipan and the Philippines last month, after obtaining a license from the CNMI government, bringing to nine the total number of money transfer companies serving. Filipino workers on the island. Of these nine remittance companies, however, Asia Pacific Corporation has yet to start operations although it has already secured its permit for several months now.

Sept. 12, 2001

Kumoi sued for alleged fraudulent sale of land
Senator Ramon S. DeLeon Guerrero is now facing a lawsuit for his involvement in at least two cases of alleged fraudulent sale of land in Fina Sisu. The complaint asked the court to compel Guerrero to pay Jesus Q. DeLeon Guerrero and his spouse, Wilhelma, the amount of $500,000 in punitive damages, aside from their actual loss of $21,000. Calling the senator's conduct as "fraudulent, willful, outrageous and malicious," the plaintiffs accused Guerrero of misrepresentation in claiming that the parcels of land he was selling were free from any encumbrance or lien. The lawmaker allegedly induced the couple to purchase the lots by claiming that he was in need of money.

Washington Rep. candidates bare views on federal issues
The Saipan Chamber of Commerce kicked off its debate series on Monday, with candidates for Washington Representative not so much debating as presenting their respective stands on several issues facing the CNMI. An estimated 200nplus audience paid $20 apiece to watch Herman R. Guerrero of the Covenant Party, Pete A. Tenorio of the Republican Party, and Agnes M. McPhetres of the Democratic Party slug it out in a series of questions that were picked out by selected students from the Northern Marianas College. The money raised during the debate will go to the Chamber's Educational Scholarship Fund. Chamber president Richard Pierce later declared the debate a success, with all three candidates presenting strong views over the issues that were tackled during the evening affair.

Sept.12, 2002

Minus two for AGO After Torres, chief prosecutor follows suit
Two weeks after Attorney General Robert Torres severed his official ties with the Babauta administration, the resigned official's appointed Criminal Division Chief Prosecutor, Clyde Lemons Jr., followed suit and tendered his resignation last September 5 for reasons that he did not care to share with the public. Lemons declined to furnish a copy of his resignation letter to the media but stated yesterday he had his own reasons for relinquishing the post. He added that his former boss, Torres, and acting Attorney General Mona Manglona are aware of the reasons behind his resignation. The government prosecutor, however, noted that his resignation will not take effect until November 1, 2002, pursuant to the 60nday notice required in his contract with the Attorney General's Office.

Manglona: No to override action on budget vetoes
With 12 line item vetoes in the recently enacted budget for Fiscal Year 2003, Senate President Paul A. Manglona believes that, rather than overriding them, it would be better to explore alternative responses that would result in a win win solution for everyone. Manglona also underscored the importance of the passage of House Bill 13n170Ñnow referred to as Public Law 13-24Ñsaying both the Legislature and the Executive Branch have to be commended for achieving such a significant breakthrough in the CNMI's spending plan.

Business

General Motors to offer money-back guarantee

By EMILY FREDRIX
AP MARKETING WRITER

General Motors is hoping to jump-start its revival by guaranteeing car buyers that if they don't like their new Chevrolet, GMAC, Buick or Cadillac, they have 60 days to bring it back for a full refund.

The marketing effort that starts Monday is called "May the Best Car Win" and aims to win back customers leery of GM since it filed for bankruptcy protection earlier this year. The nation's largest automaker needs to improve sales so it can repay billions in government loans and stay in business.

New GM Chairman Edward Whitacre Jr. will appear in the initial burst of ads, telling viewers in his folksy, Texas accent that he too had doubts about the company when he joined this summer. Now, he likes the cars he's seen, and consumers should too. If they don't, they can have their money back.

Running through Nov. 30, General Motors Co. will allow buyers of new GM vehicles to return them, no questions asked, for a full refund within 31 to 60 days.

The vehicles must not have more than 4,000 miles on them and the drivers must be current on their payments.

The offer applies to the Detroit company's four remaining brands: Chevrolet, GMAC, Buick and Cadillac. The Pontiac brand, which GM is phasing out, is not eligible. Leased vehicles are also ineligible.

The campaign will also pit GM's four brands directly against foreign competitors, focusing on quality, performance, fuel economy and design.

GM must show that its cars and trucks are better than competitors' offerings, GM Vice Chairman Bob Lutz told reporters on a conference call Thursday.

He said there is a "monumental chasm" between the public's perception of GM's vehicles and the autos in its current lineup. The campaign, which has been planned for months, aims to change that.

Whitacre's appearance in the ads will be short-lived as GM shifts focus away from the corporation, Lutz said.

SEC officials promise major changes after Madoff failure

WASHINGTON (AP)— The Securities and Exchange Commission's watchdog has recommended "employee-by-employee" action to ensure the agency fixes the breakdowns that allowed Bernard Madoff's colossal fraud to go undetected for years.

The question of whether SEC employees will individually be held accountable for the agency's embarrassing failure to detect the multibillion-dollar Ponzi scheme that Madoff ran for more than a decade emerged at a hearing Thursday by the Senate Banking Committee.

"The first thing you have to do is clean house," insisted Sen. Robert Menendez, D-N.J.

No SEC employees have been fired specifically in relation to the bungled investigations of Madoff, though the heads of the agency's enforcement division and inspections office, which conducted the probes, have left the SEC in recent months.

David Kotz, the SEC inspector general, testified Thursday that more than 20 employees were involved in the failed examinations.

"The entire SEC should be held accountable for what happened," he said.

Two top SEC officials pledged to fix the problems that led to the agency's failure to uncover for 16 years what could be the biggest Ponzi scheme on record despite numerous credible red flags raised by outsiders. The heads of the SEC's enforcement division and inspections office said they "deeply regret" the agency's failure in the Madoff affair and promised changes to avoid future breakdowns.

SEC Enforcement Director Robert Khuzami, who joined the agency in March, said he has started the most extensive restructuring of his division in at least 30 years.

"We intend to learn every lesson we can," he said. "There are no sacred cows."

Khuzami said every stone will be turned in revamping the agency, including personnel decisions on a case-by-case basis.

Harry Markopolos, the fraud investigator who brought his allegations to the SEC about improprieties in Madoff's business starting in 2000, testified that the agency's staff "was not capable of finding ice cream in a Dairy Queen."

"They need to start weeding out staff. ... There's a lot of turkeys that need to be let go," Markopolos said, suggesting that more than half of the agency's professional staff should get pink slips.

Khuzami disputed that, saying the deficiencies in the Madoff case are not "emblematic of the entire (enforcement) division."

Nation

This 9-11, Obama has the bullhorn on terrorism

WASHINGTON (AP)—On Sept. 11, 2001, Barack Obama was driving to a state legislative hearing in Chicago when he heard the first sketchy reports of a plane hitting the World Trade Center on his car radio. The 40-year-old state senator spent the afternoon in his law office watching "nightmare images" of destruction and grief unfold on TV.

Within days, he'd issued a statement about what the nation should do next.

Beyond the immediate needs to improve security and dismantle "organizations of destruction," Obama wrote, lay the more difficult job of "understanding the sources of such madness." He wrote of "a fundamental absence of empathy on the part of the attackers," of "embittered children" around the world, of the seeds of discontent sown in poverty, ignorance and despair.

The nuanced musings of an obscure state senator, Obama's statement never even made the big Chicago dailies.

Americans were listening instead to President George W. Bush, shouting into a bullhorn at Ground Zero. To weary rescue workers and a sorrowing nation, Bush declared: "The world hears you, and the people who knocked these buildings down will hear all of us soon."

Eight years later, Obama has the bullhorn. And the way forward in the fight against terrorism is anything but clear.

Obama approaches his first 9-11 anniversary as president saddled with two wars that followed the 2001 terrorist attacks, and confronted at every turn by difficult leftovers from Bush's response to them.

Public sentiment toward U.S. involvement in Afghanistan is souring as combat deaths grow and questions persist about flawed Afghan elections.

AP

President Barack Obama gestures while speaking during a meeting with his Cabinet, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009, at the White House in Washington.

The drawdown of U.S. troops in Iraq is moving forward, but at a slower pace than envisioned by candidate Obama. Defense Secretary Robert Gates speaks of "a certain war-weariness on the part of the American people."

There are sticky questions about what parts of Bush's anti-terrorism program to keep, what parts to lose, what parts to investigate.

Obama's goal of shutting the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba within a year is bogged down in case-by-case complexities.

The phrase "war on terror" has fallen out of favor: Obama avoids using it, he says, to keep from offending Muslims.

Keeping Americans safe, the president says, is "the first thing I think about when I wake up in the morning; it's the last thing that I think about when I go to sleep at night."

Bush used to say the same thing.

He pledged to "rid the world of evil," and framed the worst act of terrorism on American soil with a black-and-white clarity that belied the complex challenges that lay ahead.

US Muslims: *backlash fear builds each 9/11*

NEW YORK (AP)—There is the dread of leaving the house that morning. People might stare, or worse, yell insults.

Prayers are more intense, visits with family longer. Mosques become a refuge.

Eight years after 9/11, many U.S. Muslims still struggle through the anniversary of the attacks. Yes, the sting has lessened. For the younger generation of Muslims, the tragedy can even seem like a distant memory. "Time marches on," said Souha Azmeh Al-Samkari, a 22-year-old student at the University of Dayton in Ohio.

Yet, many American Muslims say Sept. 11 will never be routine, no matter how many anniversaries have passed.

"I get a sick feeling in the pit of my stomach every year," said Nancy Rokayak of Charlotte, N.C., who covers her hair in public. "I feel on 9/11 others look at me and blame me for the events that took place."

Rokayak, a U.S.-born convert, has four children with her husband, who is from Egypt, and works as an ultrasound technologist. She makes sure she is wearing a red, white and blue flag pin every Sept. 11 and feels safer staying close to home.

Sarah Sayeed, who lives in the Bronx, said that for a long time, she hesitated before going out on the anniversary. The morning the World Trade Center crumbled, she rushed to her son's Islamic day school so they could both return home. The other women there warned that she should take off her headscarf, or hijab, for her own safety. She now attends an interfaith prayer event each Sept. 11, keeping her hair covered as always.

"There's still a sense of `Should I go anywhere? Should I say anything?' There's kind of that anxiety," said Sayeed, who was born in India and came to the U.S. at age 8. "I force myself to go out."

The anniversary brings a mix of emotions: sorrow over the huge loss of life, anguish over the wars that followed, but also resentment over how the hijackings so completely transformed the place of Muslims in the U.S. and beyond.

A poll released this week by the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life found that 38 percent of Americans believe Islam is more likely than other faiths to encourage violence. That is down from 45 percent two years earlier.

It is now common in U.S. mosques for Muslims to preface public remarks by saying they know the government is eavesdropping but Muslims have nothing to hide.

"It put a lot of Muslim Americans in the position of, `We don't blend in as much as we thought we did,'" said Ibrahim Abdul-Matin, a native New Yorker whose college friend was killed in the World Trade Center.

Some of the Muslims interviewed for this story said they have been subjected to insults, though not on the Sept. 11 anniversary. Sayeed remembers a man walking by and calling her "Taliban." Closer to the attacks, an anonymous caller told Rokayak to get out of the country.

Democrats say health care bill to pass this year

WASHINGTON (AP)—Democratic congressional leaders predicted passage of health care legislation within a few months despite undimmed Republican opposition, claiming momentum Thursday from President Barack Obama's speech and renewed commitment from lawmakers fresh from a month of meetings with constituents.

Pelosi

Increasingly, events in the Senate Finance Committee appeared pivotal, precursor to likely votes in both the House and the Senate by early October. "I'm confident the president will sign a bill this year," said House Speaker Nancy Pelosi of California.

While effusively praising Obama's speech from the night before, Pelosi and Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid of Nevada signaled separately the president may not prevail in his call for legislation that allows the federal government to sell insurance in competition with private industry.

Reid said that while he favors a strong "public option," he could be satisfied with establishment of nonprofit cooperatives, along the lines expected to be included in the bill taking shape in the Finance Committee.

Pelosi, who has long favored a measure that allows the government to sell insurance, passed up a chance to say it was a nonnegotiable demand.

As long as legislation makes quality health care more accessible and affordable, "we will go forward with that bill," she said.

Democrats are divided over the public option in both houses, liberals strongly in favor and many moderates against it. Critically, though, it appears that any chance for Republican support would evaporate if legislation permits immediate, direct competition between the government and insurance industry.

Studies: 1 dose of swine flu vaccine works

WASHINGTON (AP)—Good news in the world's flu fight: One dose of the new swine flu vaccine looks strong enough to protect adults—and can spark protection within 10 days of the shot, Australian and U.S. researchers said Thursday.

Australian shot maker CSL Ltd. published results of a study that found between 75 percent and 96 percent of vaccinated people should be protected with one dose—the same degree of effectiveness as the regular winter flu shot. That's remarkable considering scientists thought it would take two doses.

U.S. data to be released Friday confirm those findings, and show the protection starts rapidly, Dr. Anthony Fauci of the National Institutes of Health told The Associated Press.

ON THE NET

Flu information: http://www.flu.gov

"This is quite good news," Fauci said.

The dose question has an important ramification: It means people will have to line up for influenza vaccinations twice this year instead of three times—once for the regular winter flu shot and a second time to be inoculated against swine flu, what doctors call the 2009 H1N1 strain.

Thursday's swine flu vaccine reports center on adults; studies in children aren't finished yet.

But scientists had feared that people of all ages would need two shots about a month apart because the new H1N1 strain is so genetically different from normally circulating flu strains that most of the population has little if any immunity.

Chinese manufacturers gave the first hint a week ago that one dose could be enough. But different manufacturers make different formulations of the vaccine, so more evidence was needed.

ACROSS THE NATION

Perry: Ranger teams to go to Texas-Mexico border

HOUSTON (AP)—Special teams of Texas Rangers will be deployed to the Texas-Mexico border to deal with increasing violence because the federal government has failed to address growing problems there, Gov. Rick Perry said Thursday. "It is an expansive effort with the Rangers playing a more high-profile role than they've ever played before," Perry said of the Department of Public Safety's elite investigative unit. The forces, dubbed "Ranger recon" teams, are the latest effort "to fill the gap that's been left by the federal government's ongoing failure to adequately secure our international border with Mexico," he said.

Sex scandal further damages lawmakers' reputation

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)—A scandal involving a family-values legislator caught boasting about his sexual escapades with his lobbyist mistresses created an embarrassing distraction for lawmakers Thursday, further diverting attention from California's major policy issues in the crucial final days of their session. Republican Mike Duvall resigned Wednesday after a videotape surfaced in which he described to a colleague in lurid detail his sexual conquests, including a spanking fetish, the skimpy underwear of one mistress and his carrying on two affairs simultaneously. He sought to deny the affairs on Thursday. The fallout from the scandal began to emerge, with calls for an outside investigation in addition to the internal ethics probe to determine whether the alleged affairs might have influenced his votes.

Suit claims Milwaukee police coerced witnesses

MILWAUKEE (AP)—A man who served 13 years in prison before his homicide conviction was overturned sued the city of Milwaukee and its police department Thursday, the same day authorities filed new charges against a man whose DNA they say was found on the victim. Chaunte D. Ott, who was convicted in 1995 in the death of a 16-year-old runaway, claims in his federal lawsuit that officers coerced two people to give false testimony and failed to intervene when DNA tests after his conviction showed he did not commit the crime. "I'm still kind of stunned they had audacity to proclaim I'm guilty of that crime," Ott, 35, told The Associated Press. "But my attitude is, I've never been bitter. I feel like I just have to live each day."

Asia

Fraud group voids ballots from Afghanistan polls

KABUL (AP)—A U.N.-backed fraud commission threw out votes Thursday from 83 polling stations and ordered recounts at hundreds of others in three provinces that form Afghan President Hamid Karzai's political base, reducing his chances of avoiding a runoff.

It was the first time the commission has flexed its muscles in the aftermath of an Aug. 20 presidential election marred by allegations of ballot stuffing, phantom polling stations and turnout at some polls that exceeded 100 percent of registered voters.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Karzai's chief challenger, former foreign minister Abdullah Abdullah, charged that the massive scale of what he called "state-engineered" fraud has become clear only as the numbers have trickled out over the past three weeks.

With results in from 92 percent of the country's polling stations, Karzai has 54 percent of the vote, according to the latest official count. That's enough to avoid a runoff election with Abdullah, who has 28 percent.

But if the U.N.-backed Electoral Complaints Commission invalidates enough votes, Karzai's margin could drop below 50 percent, forcing him to face Abdullah one-on-one in a second round of voting.

Decisions by this fraud commission are final under Afghanistan's electoral law. The group—comprised of one American, one Canadian, one Dutch, and two Afghans—is releasing decisions from each province as investigations finish.

On Thursday, the commission threw out ballots from 51 polling stations in Kandahar province, 27 in Ghazni and five in Paktika. Although it did not say how many ballots were invalidated, thousands are likely involved. It ordered election officials to recount votes in hundreds of other voting centers across the three districts in the presence of observers, commission members and representatives of the candidates.

US troops in Afghanistan run to remember 9-11

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan (AP)—U.S. troops in Afghanistan donned shorts and laced up sneakers Friday to run in memory of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, as they fight a war that was born of that day but which has seen waning public support.

More than 1,000 service members ran 9.11 kilometers (about 5 1/2 miles) at the main U.S. base to commemorate the anniversary and remember troops who have died in nearly eight-years of fighting.

The U.S. and allies first invaded the country in October 2001 to oust the Taliban regime for sheltering al-Qaida leaders who planned the attacks. The Taliban were quickly routed, but the militants regrouped and have mounted an increasingly strong insurgency over the past three years.

Organizers of Friday's race suggested it is an act of defiance against insurgents who have killed more American troops this year than in any other since the beginning of the conflict. August was the deadliest month for U.S. troops so far, with 51 killed.

"Our soldiers are running in the heart of Taliban territory, where the attacks on America were planned," according to a military statement on the run, which was held at at least two other bases as well. A run in the Kansas City was planned for the same time, with runners starting simultaneously at 8:45 p.m. local time in Olathe, Kan., to show their support for the troops.

Report: Japan executes mentally ill prisoners

TOKYO (AP)—Japan executes mentally ill prisoners, some of whom are driven insane by harsh treatment while on death row, according to a report issued Thursday by Amnesty International.

Prisoners given the death penalty are kept in solitary confinement, sometimes for decades, and are not told when their sentence will be carried out until the morning of their execution, which can lead to "significant mental illness," the London-based human rights group said.

The report focuses on five male inmates currently on death row. Amnesty International, which staunchly opposes the death penalty, had no direct access to the prisoners. It relied on interviews with family members, lawyers and medical reports to conclude that they are likely suffering from mental illness.

ASIAN BRIEFS

China tainted milk parents warned against meeting

BEIJING (AP)—Chinese police have tried to prevent parents of children sickened by tainted milk powder from traveling to Beijing to mark the anniversary of last year's scandal, an activist said Thursday. Milk powder contaminated with an industrial chemical killed at least six babies and sickened nearly 300,000 others with painful kidney stones—making it one of China's worst food safety scandals. Zhao Lianhai, the father of a sickened child who has rallied other families through a Web site he created, said 11 parents had planned to hold a small commemoration in Beijing on Friday with a dinner, lighting of candles and prayers for the children.

Stampede kills 5 students at New Delhi school

NEW DELHI (AP)—Hundreds of students who were jammed into a narrow school staircase panicked and set off a stampede Thursday that left five girls dead and 31 other students injured in India's capital. Five of the injured were in critical condition, said O.P. Kalra, medical superintendent of the Guru Tegh Bahadur Hospital, where the injured boys and girls were taken. The stampede occurred early in the day as students arrived for an exam, Kalra told reporters.

Vietnam, US launch health panel on Agent Orange

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Vietnamese and U.S. scientists wrapped up their annual meetings on Agent Orange on Thursday, launching a task force to examine health issues in areas where the defoliant was used during the Vietnam War. The panel will begin by focusing on programs to aid the disabled in Danang, a city on the central coast where troops used to mix, store and load Agent Orange onto planes at a former U.S. base, now the site of the Danang airport. The task force will advise the bilateral Joint Advisory Committee on Agent Orange, which just wrapped up its fourth annual meeting, as it seeks ways to aid the disabled in "hotspots" where the herbicide was stored during the war.

World

Pilots: Hijacker incoherent during tense standoff

AP

In this handout photo released by Mexico's Federal Police, police officials stand guard as passengers disembark from a hijacked plane at the airport in Mexico City Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009.

By MARTHA MENDOZA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MEXICO CITY (AP)—2:30. 2:29. 2:28. ...

The assistant pilot, trying to calm the hijacker in the rear cabin of the grounded aircraft, stared at the flashing red display until he couldn't take it anymore. He walked to the front of the plane and took deep breaths for a full minute as he imagined himself being blown up with passengers and crew.

0:03. 0:02. 0:01. What goes through someone's head at a time like this?

"I imagined myself in the middle of an explosion, and I thought that in that moment my life would end," said Carlos Corzo.

But there was only silence.

The "bomb" was just three juice cans filled with sand. The ominous wires went nowhere. The seconds were ticking down on a benign stopwatch.

The three pilots of Aeromexico Flight 576, which was hijacked Wednesday afternoon on its way into Mexico City, spoke about the ordeal to the Associated Press. They described an incoherent Bolivian pastor, Jose Flores, 44, whose Biblical warnings and strange demands sparked an hour-long tarmac standoff that kept the country in suspense until the 103 passengers and seven crew members walked away unharmed.

Mexican investigators struggled Thursday with two questions: How did Flores get his fake bomb through airport security in Cancun, the flight's origin, and was he mentally ill and destined for a psychiatric hospital?

The pilots, meanwhile, were at still at the Mexico City airport more than a day later. They said they had slept all of about two hours and were ready to go home, but for the time being were busy recounting—for investigators, their families, each other—the story of what happened aboard Flight 576.

Netanyahu mystery trip sets off flap in Israel

JERUSALEM (AP)—Benjamin Netanyahu dropped out of sight for most of a day this week, a mysterious absence that has set off feverish speculation about what the Israeli leader was up to—and accusations he lied to cover up a clandestine trip to Moscow.

Netanyahu

After initially issuing a vague statement about visiting a top-secret Mossad installation inside Israel, Netanyahu kept silent Thursday as reports emerged that he flew to Moscow aboard a private jet for urgent talks on Iran.

According to various accounts, the Israeli prime minister was either pushing the Russians to halt arms sales to Iran, or warning of an impending strike against Iranian nuclear facilities or discussing the recent disappearance of a Russian-crewed freighter.

A shifting story line from Netanyahu's office and then silence have enraged the local media, which branded the prime minister a liar and painted his office as a chaotic scene of rivalries and disarray.

Death rate for children under 5 continues decline

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—It is unacceptable that 8.8 million children die every year before their fifth birthday—40 percent of them in India, Nigeria and Congo, the U.N. children's agency said Thursday.

New data released by UNICEF and published online in The Lancet, a British medical journal, shows a continuing decline in the death rate for youngsters under the age of 5, a trend that has continued for the last two decades.

WORLD BRIEFS

Greenland's melt mystery unfolds, at glacial pace

HELHEIM GLACIER, Greenland (AP)—Suddenly and without warning, the gigantic river of ice sped up, causing it to spit icebergs ever faster into the ocean off southeastern Greenland. Helheim Glacier nearly doubled its speed in just a few years, flowing through a rift in the barren coastal mountains at a stunning 100 feet (30 meters) per day. Alarm bells rang as the pattern was repeated by glaciers across Greenland: Was the island's vast ice sheet, a frozen water reservoir that could raise the sea level 20 feet if disgorged, in danger of collapse? Half a decade later, there's a little bit of good news—and a lot of uncertainty.

200 missing after Sierra Leone boat capsizes

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)—More than 200 people, including many schoolchildren returning from holidays, were missing and feared dead Thursday, a day after a wooden boat capsized at sea, authorities said. Thirty-nine passengers have been rescued so far off the coast of the West African nation, said Naval Lt. Cmdr. Mao Suma, who is in charge of the rescue operation, which will continue at least until Saturday. Search teams have recovered 16 bodies, Suma said, and 213 people are missing and feared dead.

Maharlika

PINOY LIFE IN THE MARIANAS

Saturday, September 12, 2009

Giving Philippines' remitters their voice

By RODEL RODIS
INQUIRER.NET

CALIFORNIA, United States—Considering that the globe is mired in a major economic crisis which continues to roil its most advanced countries, the Philippines' economic picture is impressive.

Its unemployment rate is hovering around 7 percent (while the latest US figure is at 9.7 percent), and its gross national product of about $186 billion recorded a phenomenal 4.5 percent growth in 2008. Moreover, while the US economy contracted in the second quarter of 2009, the Philippine economy managed to grow by 4.4 percent.

What accounts for this performance? Higher remittances. Which just goes to show that when the going gets tough, the tough overseas Filipino workers—laboring in all continents except Antarctica—somehow manage to send more money home.

According to the BSP (the Philippines' central bank), remittances from January to June 2009 totaled $8.5 billion, of which $4.5 billion came from the Americas. When annualized for 2009, this translates to at least $17 billion. Though the pace has slowed this year from the almost 10 percent annual growth recorded for most of this decade, the final year-end tally will likely be higher because remittances usually rise during the Christmas holidays.

It should be noted that the BSP figures only take into account those money flows that go through the formal channels—i.e., money which flow through banks and non-bank financial institutions engaged in money transfer services.

What would the total figures be if they included the value of goods and services that flow to the Philippines using the informal channels and methods—e.g., the "colorum" remitters; the padala system or the cash hand-carried by balikbayans; and the pasalubongs stuffed in balikbayan boxes? What value can be placed on the medical missions conducted by Fil-Am doctors; on those donations to charitable organizations like Books for the Barrios which advance Filipino causes; and on those tourists who visit because of the encouragement, active or otherwise, from their Filipino co-workers and friends?

In her report, "Poverty in the Philippines: Income, Assets, and Access," Karin Schelzig, a Social Development Specialist for the Asian Development Bank, cited a World Bank study which estimated actual remittances to be as high as $21 billion in 2002. That year, however, the official BSP figures only showed total remittances to be around $7.6 billion.

A rudimentary extrapolation from this data means that the 2009 figure may be as high as twice the $17 billion estimated for 2009—$34 billion—or more.

Given that the Philippine government's budget for 2010 is about P1.541 trillion (roughly $32 billion), this means that after financing the operation of the entire Philippine government for the entire year—e.g., after paying for the President, every government worker, every teacher, every soldier, and every congressman/senator and all his/her pork barrel projects—the OFW remitters still have a couple of billion dollars of change left.

A 2008 study by two University of British Columbia professors, Dr. Michael Goldberg and Dr. Maurice Levi, reveals that as a percentage of GDP, remittances account for 13.5 percent of the Philippine economy and that they have become more substantial than the combined impact of foreign direct investments (FDI) and official development assistance (ODA) funds.

The study also found that in large recipient countries like India, China, Mexico, and the Philippines which are characterized by income inequality, volatility, and an absence of developed credit and insurance markets, "remittances can serve as a substitute for financial markets, for example, allowing households to finance investments, including investments in human capital, and in this way spur economic development."

Further, the study disclosed that "remittances might help investors circumvent the constraints of the financial system to take advantage of high economic returns that are inaccessible to them because of the lack of credit and savings vehicles."

But economics is not called "the dismal science" for nothing. For every economist saying "good," there's another saying "bad."

A 2009 IMF Working Paper entitled "Do Workers' Remittances Promote Economic Growth?" postulates that "[t]o the extent that remittance inflows are simple income transfers, recipient households may rationally substitute unearned remittance income for labor income" and that remittances "may be plagued by severe moral hazard problems."

The paper concludes that "[p]art of the reason why remittances have not spurred economic growth is that they are generally not intended to serve as investments but rather as social insurance to help family members finance the purchase of life's necessities."

The IMF study seems to suggest that by helping the poor financially, you are making them worse off and dependent on you. I suspect that hundreds of thousands of OFWs who have seen their remittances send their kids through college, finance the purchase of jeepneys and tricycles, and fund the start of sari-sari stores and other small businesses, will disagree with the IMF study.

The main flaw of the IMF study is the starting premise that the role of remittances is to promote economic growth. It is undisputed that remittances contribute to the economy. But they are not intended to promote economic growth—only sound government policies can do that.

Thus, it is high time that the Philippine government be held accountable to the millions of OFWs remitting nonstop year in and year out, crisis or no crisis, and always reliably bailing out the government despite the endemic and systemic corruption at its core.

That is the goal of the 6th Global Filipino Networking Convention set to take place on January 21-23, 2010, in Cebu, Philippines (www.6thGlobalCebu.com). It will be a forum for the 11 million Pinoys in the global diaspora to voice their opinions on what the Philippine government should be doing with their money which continues to be the singular, most reliable source of support for the Philippine economy. Since their funds virtually finance annual government operations, their voices should be heard loud and clear.

1655
NO U.S. TAX DOLLARS
CORRUPTION, DICTATORS - TORTURE!
JUSTICE 4 MELISSA ROXAS!
BEWARE: THIS HOUSE WAS BOUGHT WITH
UNEXPLAINED WEALTH BY A CORRUPT PHILIPPINE POLITICIAN!

OUTRAGED MARCONI CALINDAS

Filipino-Americans hold a rally to express their outrage over presidential son and Pampanga Rep. Juan Miguel "Mikey" Arroyo's alleged questionable acquisition of a $1.3-million (P63.7-million) property in California. Members of BAYAN-USA staged a Friday morning protest in front of the five-bedroom house that Arroyo reportedly purchased along Beach Park Boulevard in Foster City, an affluent city of the San Mateo County in Northern California. Some members of Gabriela-USA, BABAE and the National Alliance of Filipino Concerns joined the rally. Inset, two protesters are dressed up as the mother-and-son tandem of Philippine President Gloria Arroyo and Rep. Mikey Arroyo.

? LABOR FRONT

Orientation, disputes, taxes

By FERDIE PONCE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorres@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Q: Why is it necessary for a new alien worker to attend an orientation at the Department of Labor?

A: A new alien worker must be sure to attend Labor's orientation session because that is the only way he or she will be able to get the entry permit that is necessary for him or her to work in the CNMI.

When new foreign workers arrive in the CNMI, they will be required to attend the orientation session, which will be given in their own language. The session will provide them with more information about working in the Commonwealth. They will be given more detailed information about this session when they arrive at the Saipan International Airport.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: If you are a new alien worker and you have a dispute with your employer, what are the proper steps for you to take?

A: Sometimes disputes arise between employers and their alien employees. According to Labor, if a dispute arises and is not resolved quickly by the employer, the worker should report any unresolved dispute to Labor within two weeks. The worker will be informed about reporting disputes during the orientation. A worker does not have to stop working in order to report a dispute or to file a Labor complaint.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: What kind of taxes do alien workers need to pay in the CNMI?

A: Commonwealth taxes and other taxes may be deducted from the alien workers' wages. According to Labor, the employers will provide a document that explains each deduction.

Alien workers may return home at any time. When they want to go, they are entitled to a repatriation ticket back to their home country. The contract requires the employers to provide an airline ticket. Labor will assist the workers with respect to their departure.

Disclaimer: *Readers should conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional legal advice.* Saipan Tribune *will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from this section. Submit questions on labor issues to* Saipan Tribune *via e-mail at editor@saipantribune.com, or by calling 235-6397, 235-2440, or 235-8747 and leaving a message at Ext. 133 or 135. You may also submit questions in person by writing it down and dropping it off at the* Saipan Tribune*'s office on the second floor of the JP Center on Beach Road, Garapan.*

5 dead, 4 missing in Philippine floods, landslides

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Floods and landslides triggered by a tropical depression left four children and an adult dead in the Philippines while four other people were missing, the government said Thursday.

More than 300,000 residents of four northern provinces were affected by floods, including about 3,300 people who fled to evacuation centers and more than 41,000 who moved in with relatives or friends, the National Disaster Coordinating Council said.

The tropical depression induced heavy monsoon rains, causing massive floods in metropolitan Manila and outlying provinces starting Tuesday until it blew away toward Hong Kong Wednesday night, packing winds of up to 34 miles per hour (55 kph).

In Calamba city, south of Manila, two sisters aged 2 and 3 died when their home was buried by landslide. A 7-year-old girl and a 59-year-old man drowned in Pampanga province, and another two-year-old girl drowned in Bulacan province, NDCC said.

The missing include a 19-year-old woman who fell into a creek in suburban Quezon City and three security guards of a mining company in Zambales province that was hit by a landslide.

Classes were suspended in Manila on Wednesday due to heavy floods.

About 20 typhoons and storms lash the Philippine archipelago annually.

ANTI-VFA PROTEST AP

Riot police clash with student protesters as the latter force their way closer to the U.S. Embassy to protest the continued presence of U.S. troops in the Philippines through the Visiting Forces Agreement on Friday Sept. 11, 2009 in Manila, Philippines. The U.S. troops are currently stationed in southern Philippines to help the Philippine military in its fight against terrorism in the wake of terrorist attacks on U.S. soil in Sept. 11, 2001.

Palace spokesman slams Noynoy Aquino

Arroyo men: 2010 not a battle of good vs evil

By CHRISTIAN V. ESGUERRA, NIKKO DIZON
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines — From "Be your own man" to "Be a man."

Malacañang on Thursday gave another piece of unsolicited advice—a more acerbic one—to Sen. Benigno "Noynoy" Aquino III, who had declared his presidential bid next year.

The Palace was incensed over the idea of Aquino and other presidential aspirants from the opposition running their campaign at the expense of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

"Don't run (at the expense) of this little lady who's done her best for this country in the last eight years. Magpakalalaki naman kayo (Be a man)," Gary Olivar, deputy presidential spokesperson, said at a briefing.

In announcing his candidacy, Aquino on Wednesday criticized Ms Arroyo, his former economics professor at Ateneo de Manila University, for "forgetting what she had taught me." He promised a more efficient use of government resources should he win in 2010.

Olivar blasted Aquino and other presidential hopefuls from the opposition for supposedly turning the presidential race into a battle of "good versus evil."

"Nobody has the monopoly of right and wrong on either side right?" he said in Filipino.

Olivar earlier told Aquino to "be your own man" and not ride simply on the wave of sentimental support for his late parents.

Aquino's decision to run was prompted by the massive support his family received following the Aug. 1 death of his mother, former President Corazon Aquino. His father, former Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., was assassinated as he returned to the country in 1983.

The spokesperson described as a "laudable objective" Aquino's promise to run after the ill-gotten wealth of the Marcoses. But he noted that the Arroyo administration had a "good" record in terms of recovering the Marcos wealth.

Greatest accomplishment

"It's easy to talk about that 'good vs evil,'" he said. "Let's be very careful about that. We're supposed to be maturing politically as a nation. We should leave that kind of framework behind."

Stepping up the attack on Aquino, the administration coalition sneered at his presidential bid, saying he could offer only the name of his illustrious parents.

"His greatest accomplishment is he's the son of Ninoy and Cory. Now, he's the brother of Kris Aquino, who is actually more of a leader than him," said Prospero Pichay, a vice president of the Lakas-Kampi-CMD party.

No major bill

Pichay expressed doubt over the younger Aquino's capability to run a country, saying voters should first examine his public service record in his years as Tarlac representative and now, as senator.

"In our years in Congress, I don't remember a major bill he had authored," said Pichay, a former Surigao del Sur representative.

"He's a good congressman, a diligent one. He always attended sessions, but I don't think he has the makings of a good leader," he added.

Measures filed

A check with Aquino's official website showed a total of 14 measures he had filed in his third and last term as a member of the House of Representatives.

Of the measures, six were resolutions including the one "creating a select congressional oversight committee on intelligence funds to check and study the use of intelligence funds by government agencies."

Atop Aquino's list of sponsored bills was the "Act Providing for the Codification of Criminal Laws in the Philippines." Next was the measure declaring April 19 as Tarlac City Day and a special nonworking holiday.

Pichay said Aquino should not run mainly on the strength of his late parents' public record and the support he had been getting since the death of his mother.

"(They're) not enough," Pichay said. "You have to remember that what really counts is if the person has the makings of a good leader. Was he a leader?"

Only in Metro Manila

Pichay downplayed the supposed public clamor that apparently convinced Aquino to join the presidential race.

He said the supposed clamor was "felt only in Metro Manila and ABS-CBN."

Aquino is the latest addition to the list of opposition figures vying for the presidency. Other known presidential hopefuls are former President Joseph Estrada, Senators Manuel Villar, Francis Escudero and Loren Legarda, and Bro. Eddie Villanueva.

"The more candidates that the opposition has, the stronger the chances of victory for the administration," said Gabriel Claudio, political adviser of President Macapagal-Arroyo.

It's a go for automated polls; SC junks TRO bid

By DONA PAZZIBUGAN
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—On with the computerized national elections.

The Supreme Court, voting 11-3 vote, Thursday threw out a petition to nullify the P7.2-billion poll automation project awarded by the Commission on Elections to Smartmatic International and Total Information Management.

In a 49-page decision written by Associate Justice Presbitero Velasco Jr., the high court dismissed claims by the Concerned Citizens Movement that the Comelec committed grave abuse of discretion and that the Smartmatic-TIM joint venture was improperly documented.

"Had petitioners only bothered to undertake the usual due diligence that comes with good judgment and examined the eligibility envelope of the Smartmatic-TIM joint venture, they would have discovered that their challenge...have really no factual basis," the court said.

Underscoring Comelec's "pivotal role," the court said the poll body deserved to be given "ample elbow room" to devise ways and undertake initiatives to accomplish its duty to conduct free and honest elections.

"The court will not indulge in the presumption that nothing would go wrong, that a successful automation election unmarred by fraud, violence and like irregularities would be the order of the moment on May 10, 2010," it said.

Road certainly bumpy

"The road however toward successful 2010 automation elections would certainly be rough and bumpy. The Comelec is laboring under very tight timelines. It would accordingly need the help of all advocates of orderly and honest elections, of all men and women of good will, to smoothen the way and assist Comelec personnel address the fears expressed about the integrity of the system," the court said.

"Like anyone else, the court would like and wish automated elections to succeed, credibly," it added.

Leaked to media

Before the ruling was released, CCM lawyer Harry Roque filed a motion asking the court to investigate Comelec Chair Jose Melo and to cite him in contempt for allegedly preempting the announcement of the decision by leaking it to media.

Court spokesperson Midas Marquez said Roque's petition would be included in the regular agenda of the full court.

Melo denied he released the decision, saying he learned about it from media.

Melo welcomed the court ruling and said that the Comelec timetable for computerization was on track and that it would begin paying Smartmatic-TIM for its services within the week.

Pilot testing not mandatory

In asking the high court to issue a temporary restraining order against the Comelec, the petitioners said that the poll body had failed to pilot test the precinct count optical scan (PCOS) machines as required by the election modernization act.

They said that Smartmatic-TIM failed to submit all required documents before it made its bid and that the machines failed to meet the 0.005-percent error margin requirement set by law, citing information posted on Smartmatic's website that the error margin was 2 to 10 percent.

The court said pilot testing the technology was neither a mandatory requirement nor a prerequisite for the full automation.

What the law requires, it stressed, is that the PCOS or any automated election system technology procured by Comelec must have demonstrated its viability in either a local or foreign election.

Judging from what the court has heard and read in the proceedings, the choice of PCOS by Comelec was "not a spur of moment affair," the court said, adding that this was the "product of honest to goodness studies, consultations and lessons learned" from the automated balloting in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao in 2008.

The court also said the alleged "2 percent to 10 percent failing rate" was based on a webpage of Smartmatic that was no longer current.

U.S. & CNMI IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman & Maya B. Kara

FREE INITIAL CONSULTATION

Call for Appointment

(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl. Derence Jack Rd.,
Garapan, Saipan

***BRUCE L. MAILMAN** is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989*

***MAYA B. KARA** is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer*

Details ironed out for 20,000 jobs for OFWs in Guam

MANILA, Philippines—A top level Guam Senate team visited the country last week to finalize details on the hiring of 20,000 Filipino skilled workers for the construction of military headquarters in Guam beginning July 2010, the Department of Labor and Employment (DoLE) said in a statement Thursday.

Guam Senators Judith P. Guthertz and Rory J. Respicio held high-level talks with Labor Secretary Marianito Roque and Administrators Jennifer Manalili of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration (POEA) and Carmelita Dimzon of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration (Owwa). The two legislators also met with Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (Tesda) Director General Augusto Syjuco.

Guthertz chairs the Guam legislature's committee on Guam United States military buildup. She is also Guam's homeland security assistant majority leader. Respicio chairs the Guam legislature committee on rules, natural resources, federal foreign, and Micronesia affairs majority leader.

Roque said the visit of the Guam delegation to the country indicated Guam's preference and intent to hire OFWs to meet its manpower requirements for the relocation and construction of US military facilities from Okinawa to Guam in the next five years.

He said military construction in Guam is scheduled to start in July 2010, which means that hiring and deployment of OFWs to Guam could be simultaneous as construction begins or could even be earlier than July next year.

He said Guam would initially need engineers, architects, allied professionals, and skilled construction workers. But as military buildup continues coupled with the relocation of more military personnel and their families from Okinawa to Guam, it is envisioned that this island US territory may also hire OFWs in the service and healthcare sectors.

In view of the bright prospects for OFWs in Guam, Roque said the DoLE and POEA have specified an action agenda for the deployment of OFWs to Guam. On top of the agenda are the adoption of a standard employment contract and the setting up of guidelines on the deployment of Guam-bound OFWs.

POEA is expected to come up with the standard contract and deployment guidelines before the year ends, in accordance with US laws which include the US H2B rule prohibiting the charging of recruitment fee from foreign workers.

Roque said OFWs wanting to work in Guam should be wary of recruiters who may charge them fees, which is a violation of US laws. He reiterated his calls on OFWs to check first with POEA the veracity of overseas job offers and to report to the authorities recruiters charging prohibitive recruitment fees. ***(INQUIRER.net)***

Help on the way for RP workers in Maldives

By JEROME ANING
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Help is on the way.

This was the assurance given by the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration Wednesday to 60 construction workers stranded in the Maldives after their employer failed to pay their wages five months after their arrival in the Indian Ocean archipelagic state.

OWWA Administrator Carmelita Dimzon told reporters she had called the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency to compel the workers' recruiter to work for their repatriation and the settlement of their claims as soon as possible.

The government said it had a hard time tracking down the workers because the nearest Philippine embassy they could turn to for help was in Bangladesh, although the office does not have a welfare officer tasked to help distressed overseas Filipino workers.

The Philippines only has an honorary consul in the Maldives, and the OFWs live on an island about 36 hours by boat from the Maldivian capital of Male.

32 Filipinas in UAE jail pardoned by sheik

By CYNTHIA BALANA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—A total of 32 Filipino women who have been languishing in jail in Fujairah, the United Arab Emirates, have been granted a pardon by the UAE ruler in the spirit of Ramadan, the Department of Foreign Affairs said Thursday.

Most of the women prisoners who received the pardon from Sheik Hamad bin Mohammed were in jail for light offenses such as theft, adultery and violation of immigration rules, said Ed Malaya, the DFA spokesperson.

"The DFA conveys its deep gratitude to Sheik Hamad bin Mohammed for the granting of pardon to 32 Filipinas in jail," Malaya said.

"Through this gesture, His Highness has once again affirmed compassion, charity and generosity as a virtue that is at the core of Ramadan," he added.

Ahmed Bajunaid, head of the assistance to nationals section at the Philippine consulate in Dubai, reported that 21 of the prisoners returned to the Philippines this week, but did not give the dates.

The rest are waiting for their relatives or friends to provide them with air tickets, he said.

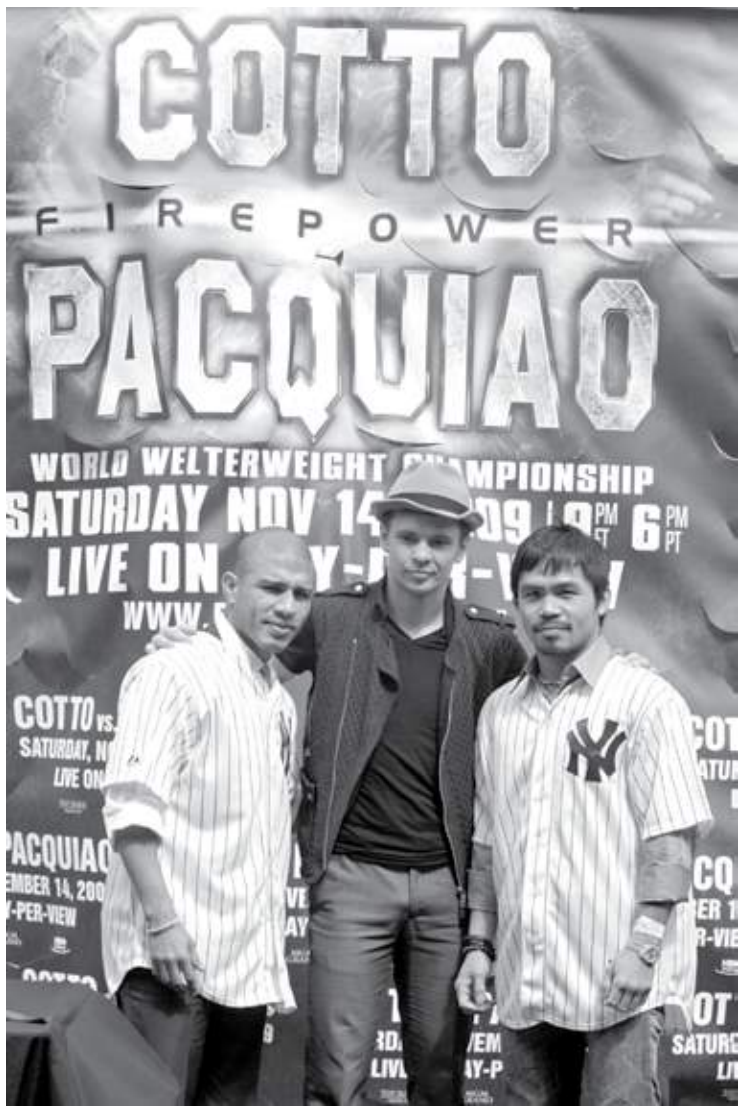
The UAE government grants a pardon to inmates on occasions like the Eid al Fitr, which marks the end of Ramadan; the Eid al Adha, which marks the end of Haj, and the UAE National Day every year.

The release of the 32 prisoners in Fujairah followed the Philippine consulate's official request before Ramadan for the pardon of Filipino inmates in Dubai and the northern emirates, The National, the UAE's online newspaper, reported.

The consulate earlier sought clemency for 30 to 40 Filipinos who were detained mostly for immigration offenses in the emirate of Sharjah, and also for 20 Filipinos, mostly men, who were convicted of murder and drug-related and debt-related cases in Dubai. It was not clear whether the 32 women released in Fujairah were included in the consulate's request.

The DFA said that pardons are granted for humanitarian reasons, but other factors taken into consideration include the nature of the crime, the length of the sentence, how much of a jail term has been served and the behavior of the prisoner while in jail. Faith and nationality are not usually taken into account.

Philippine embassies and consulates abroad periodically send a list of all detained Filipinos to the rulers of Muslim-led countries.



NEW BOUT AP
Boxers Manny Pacquiao, right, of the Philippines, and Miguel Cotto, left, of Puerto Rico, flank Yuri Foreman during a news conference at Yankee Stadium to promote their WBO welterweight championship, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009 in New York. The pair square off on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas.

TAKE CHARGE OF YOUR OWN MONEY

Coping with no pay hike

Editors note: This is part of Take Charge of Your Money, a partnership between INQUIRER.net and Citibank to help readers handle their personal finances well.

Question: The company I work for is in the export business, and since last year, we've been experiencing tough times. Some workers were laid off, especially those in the production department. I'm in the administration office, and we were just told that there will be no salary increases this year, and our benefits will remain the same. With prices of goods going up, I was counting on the salary adjustment plus higher food and transportation subsidies. How can I better cope?—Gil

Answer: The global financial crisis has affected a lot of businesses, and the export industry is one of them. It is thus no surprise that your employer is having a hard time.

First things first: Look at the bright side—you still have a job. Other people have been laid off, even those who worked for your employer. You can of course look for another job, one that will pay more and will offer job security. However, the job market is very competitive and it may take a while for you to find a job where you will fit.

So here are some steps you can do in order to make the most of your current situation:

Rework your budget. Start by listing down how much income you will expect per month from all sources (your present job, as well as any interest income from bank accounts or investments). Then jot down all your projected fixed expenses such as rent or mortgage, utility bills, insurance premiums, tuition fees, and the like. Include a new item—Savings—and allot 10 percent of your income for it. Don't stop saving every month as this will see you through unforeseen emergencies that may happen in the future. Then see how much is left for your variable expenses such as food, transportation and recreation.

Talk to your family. Be honest and tell them that your salary will not increase this year and that you all need to do your share to help the family cope with a limited budget. Assure the children, especially the young ones, that needs will be prioritized. Sometimes children think the worst right away, and may worry needlessly.

Live according to your budget—your means. Try to spend only within the amount left for your variable needs. This may take some adjusting on both you and your family's part. For instance, limit eating out to maybe once a month, and at a cheaper restaurant, or even try to skip eating out altogether and enjoy home-cooked meals every day instead.

Find ways to up the excitement factor. Even when on a budget, you can have wonderful meals at home. Consider having a weekly theme night—some good themes include 'Beach' wherein you serve grilled fish and clam soup or 'American' and serve fried chicken and corn on the cob. Be creative so the family will see they can still have a good time even on a budget.

Ask for longer better terms for payables. For tuition fees, for example, talk to the school and ask if you can switch payment mode from quarterly to monthly if that will be easier for you on the pocket. If you have a bank loan, set an appointment with your creditor and see if the terms can be changed to help you lower your monthly payables.

Scrutinize your daily spending and see where you can cut down. Find a route to work that will be less expensive, or look for a carpool you can join. If you need to have a cup of coffee every day, instead of buying from the coffee shop, fast-food outlet or the vendo machine, bring your own 3-in-1 coffee sachet. Bring a brown bag lunch to work rather than buying at the company canteen. If you're smoking, this is a good time to cut down on your cigarette habit—for both health and financial reasons.

Look for bargains. Grocery items may be cheaper at warehouse clubs or at certain supermarkets—find out where you can get the best deal. If you need to have your car repaired, ask quotations from more than two car repair shops.

Trade or sell unused things you own. An old lamp just gathering dust in a corner or a comic book collection you have outgrown may be worth precious pesos which can be used for your family's needs at this time.

Apply for a low-interest loan. Should money really be tight and you need to pay for needs, shop around for a personal or salary loan that will not cost you an arm and a leg in terms of interest. If you have built up a good credit history over the years, you won't have a problem applying for a loan. The Social Security System and your bank would be good places to start.

The future need not look bleak with no salary increase in the horizon. Things will get better as you do your part.

INQUIRER.net and Citibank invite readers to ask questions regarding financial matters. Send your questions to personal_finance@inquirer.net or comment through our personal finance blog called MoneySmarts. Readers are solely responsible for their own investment decisions and should thus conduct their own research and due diligence and obtain professional advice. INQUIRER.net will not be liable for any loss or damage caused by a reader's reliance on information obtained from our web site.

Maharlika – PinoyStyle

Eugene effortless in dual role

By DOLLY ANNE CARVAJAL
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—"Kimmy Dora" is one solid laughing trip! Lead star Eugene Domingo outdid herself in the movie where she portrays twins who are exact opposites of each other. Uge's acting is so natural that she makes playing dual roles seem so effortless. She has truly mastered the art of comedy.

Is Uge willing to be called the new Comedy Queen since her movie is a box-office success? "I am overwhelmed when people say that," she says. "But for me, the only Comedy Queen is my BFF Ai Ai de las Alas who pioneered this genre in these modern times and has proven her stature over and over again. Ai has always been so generous in giving me support. In our films, she gives me a chance to shine. Ai texted me after she watched my movie. She told me she enjoyed it and she never stopped praying for its success."

Will there be a sequel? "No plans yet," she replies. "But I hope our kababayans around the world will get a chance to see it. I owe it to the public and to Direk Joyce Bernal who guided me very well and Chris Martinez for a very good material."

Uge as Kimmy and Dora is twice as much fun. A star is born and they're twins that win!

Revelation

Miriam Quiambao was a revelation in "Kimmy Dora" as Uge's battered secretary. The Ms Universe 1st runner-up didn't mind being deglamorized for her role. "I had the time of my life filming it."

Would she rather do comedy or drama? "I like both because I enjoy laughing and I love the challenge that drama gives."

Her dream role? "To do a film with Robin Padilla, Piolo Pascual or Dingdong Dantes." The beauty queen has the makings of the next box-office queen.

2 icons, 1 concert

Two of the biggest icons in the local concert scene, Martin Nievera and Gary Valenciano, come together in a phenomenal event that took almost a quarter of a century to happen. Don't miss the much-awaited showdown in "As 1" on September 19, 8 p.m. at the Mall of Asia Concert Grounds.

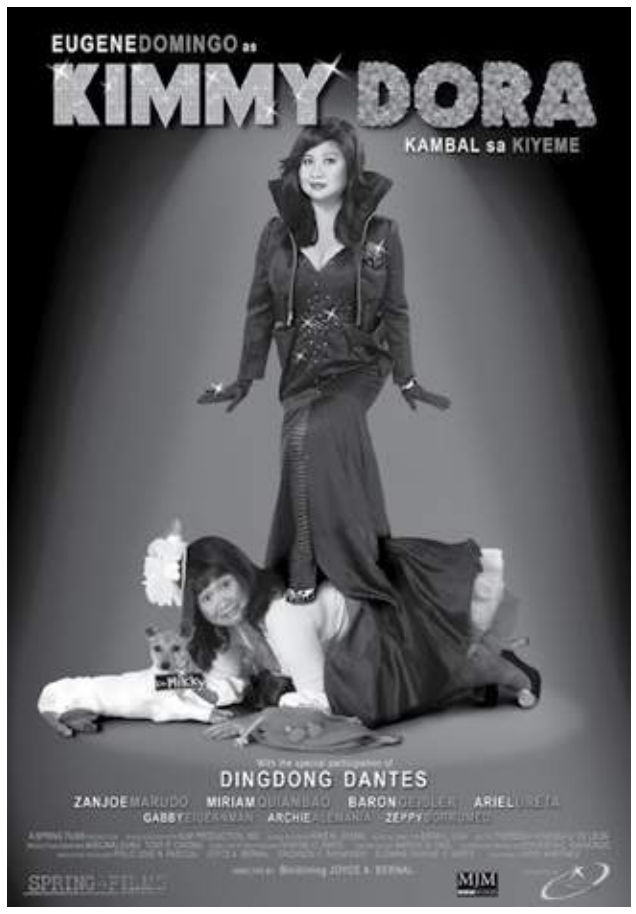
My fondest memory of Gary is when he drove IC and me home after his concert. Ever so kind, Gary asked me in jest when I got to his van, "Saan po tayo, ma'am?" IC was still a kid then. "Is this a car or an airplane?" IC blurted out.

As for Martin, I'll never forget the time he and Pops surprised me during my birthday party at Music Hall. He gamely sang a few songs. My memories of the Concert King and Mr. Pure Energy are nothing compared to the memories both of them share. They are now the sum total of all those memories which they will translate into music in "As 1."

New girl

Is "Survivor Philippines castaway Jef Gaitan the new girl in Nyoy Volante's life after Nina?

"Unfortunately we are having problems," Nyoy sighs. "But we are sorting things out. The past few weeks have been a big adjustment. As soon as we've settled everything, of course I'll be more than happy to announce that I have found love again."



The promotional poster for "Kimmy Dora" shows lead star Eugene Domingo portraying twins who are exact opposites of each other.

Love-hate relationship

Dashing celebrity athlete Phil Younghusband would like to set the record straight about the state of his relationship with his manager-publicist, Joyce Ramirez.

"There has been a lot of talk saying we have separated ways. Joyce and I have been through a lot of trials. It's a classic love-hate relationship. But the most important thing is we stick to each other no matter what," he explains. "The nice thing about Joyce is she's like this perpetual teenager stuck in the body of a female Jerry Maguire who thinks I am hotter than Chuck Bass or Leonardo Di Caprio."

Dashing celebrity athlete Phil Younghusband

Guess list

A sexy actress was rushed to the hospital to have an emergency procedure on her uterus. She was accompanied by her ex(?)-BF. Did she undergo treatment because of a botched abortion in a fly-by-night clinic?

An actress brought some balikbayan relatives to the set of their fave show because they wanted to have a souvenir picture with the lead star. Just when they were about to enter the star's dressing room, they overheard him yelling to his staff, "Di n'yo ba nakikita na nagpapahinga 'ko? Ayokong maistorbo!" So the actress and her guests left the studio pronto. To think that one of the actress' relatives helped the lead star during his struggling days.

A chanteuse caught the ire of concert producers abroad. "Sinusumpa siya ng producers," revealed another singer. "Nakasimangot daw parati at two hours late sa show. Nalugi sila kasi not even one-fourth of the venue was filled during her show."

Vindicated

Becky Aguila and her prized ward Jennylyn Mercado are overjoyed that the case filed by the latter's former secretary, Rowena Pulmano, against them has been dismissed.

Becky's text message reads: "Jen's victory is mine as well. It only proved once and for all that I am not Rowena's mastermind. I also won the case in the Department of Labor and Employment.

"The labor case filed by Rowena was dismissed due to loss of trust as her employer. Jen won her case with no bail recommended for Rowena. Jen's robbery and child abuse case filed by Rowena was also junked.

"Like what I said before, let's bring this controversial issue to court to stop a ridiculous trial by publicity. My reputation as a decent manager was tarnished by Rowena's lies. She used the intrigues about me to hide her own crimes. My family was so affected and all I could cling on to was my faith in God. Thanks to Atty. Joji Alonso, I'm now vindicated."

Bianca Manalo recounts painful Miss U moment

By ARMIN ADINA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Pamela Bianca Manalo, who represented the country in the recently concluded Miss Universe tilt in the Bahamas, received a warm welcome from the Binibining Pilipinas Charities Inc., even if she failed to reach the pageant's semifinals.

"In our hearts Bianca is a winner," said Bb. Pilipinas chair Stella Marquez de Araneta during a homecoming party at the Araneta Coliseum Gazebo last Saturday.

The last grand welcome for a titleholder was held in 2005 for Precious Lara Quigaman, the country's fourth Miss International winner. That same year, Gionna Cabrera was given a simple homecoming party to toast her special awards from the Miss U pageant held in Thailand.

Miss Philippines Bianca Manalo walks the runway in the evening gown segment of the 2009 Miss Universe Preliminary Competition, at Atlantis, Paradise Island, Bahamas, Sunday, Aug. 16, 2009.

Bianca, 22, told Inquirer she was glad Venezuela's Stefania Fernandez won. "She is very fresh, very cheerful, very young... only 18." She dismissed an online petition protesting the pageant's results, saying she would choose Fernandez any time over runner-up Ada Aimee dela Cruz from the Dominican Republic. "[Dela Cruz] was not a nice person," Bianca said.

But while admitting that she felt bad about not making the cut, Bianca said, "Maybe God did not intend for me to become Miss Universe."

She recalled being approached backstage by fellow Asians who thought she would land in the Top 15. "Miss Singapore asked me, 'What happened? No Asians?'"

Inconsolable

She said delegates from Mexico and the Bahamas were inconsolable. "Halos himatayin si [Miss] Bahamas."

At worst, Bianca was incredulous. "When the semifinalists were announced and I wasn't among them, I could not look at my family in the audience. I kept asking myself, 'What went wrong?'"

Family members who were there included her sister Katherine Ann Manalo (2002 Miss World finalist) and aunt Nini Ramos-Licaros (1968 Miss International semifinalist).

But Bianca said she wouldn't change anything in the way she conducted herself: "I did everything I knew was right and necessary."

Humbled

She also defended the blue-and-silver evening gown she wore for the preliminaries. The ensemble by Colombian designer Alfredo Barraza drew flak from pageant fans on message boards online. "I picked that gown myself," she said. "I loved how it moved [with my body]."

Bianca was humbled by the support of Filipinos worldwide. "Pinoys in the Bahamas were in every program," she said. "Many others from LA, New York and Miami flew over to cheer me. They all spent so much—that's no joke. And the fact that many Filipinos believed we had a chance was good enough for me."

After Cannes triumph, Mendoza eyes Venice

By BAYANI SAN DIEGO JR.
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

MANILA, Philippines—Filmmaker Brillante Mendoza's latest digital movie "Lola" is the second "surprise" entry in the Main Competition of the ongoing 66th Venice International Film Festival.

Mendoza, who won the Best Director prize in this year's Cannes film festival for "Kinatay," is competing with 24 other films from Germany, Italy, Sri Lanka, Egypt, China, France, Austria and the United States, among others, in the festival which runs until Sept. 12.

The other "surprise" film in the festival's Main Competition is German director Werner Herzog's "My Son, My Son, What Have Ye Done."

Festival director Marco Müller introduced the concept of a "surprise," or last-minute contender, in 2004.

Surprise entries are much awaited by critics and audiences every year in the festival, said Mendoza.

Mendoza is only the third Filipino to compete in the Venice festival's main section—after Manuel Conde for "Genghis Khan" in 1952 and Mike de Leon for "Sister Stella L. (Sangandaan)" in 1985.

Venice programmer Paolo Bertolin has confirmed that the last time the Philippines vied for the Golden Lion was "25 years ago."

Another Filipino film competing in Venice this year is Pepe Diokno's "Engkwentro" in the Orizzonti section. (Filipino filmmaker Lav Diaz topped last year's Orizzonti for "Melancholia.")

Mendoza, who was interviewed before he left for Venice Wednesday, said he is joining the Italian festival for the first time.

He participated in Cannes thrice ("Foster Child" in the Directors' Fortnight; "Serbis" and "Kinatay" in the main section for the past three years) and won the Caligari Prize at the Forum section of the Berlin fest for "Tirador" (two years ago).

Top-billed by veteran actress Anita Linda and written by Linda Casimiro, "Lola" centers on a grandmother struggling to raise money for her recently departed grandchild.

This time, Mendoza steered clear of the themes of sex and violence that he tackled in "Serbis" and "Kinatay."

Maharlika – Opinyon

Yes, he can

The thought, or challenge, persists: Can Noynoy do it? Or variations thereof: Is he qualified to become president? Is he prepared to become president? Does he have what it takes to be president?

The question doesn't just come from Arroyo's people, who ask it with dutiful sneers. The question comes from readers who ask it with dutiful concern. One e-mail I got put it this way: If you're applying to become CEO of a company, you have to submit a résumé. What commends Noynoy to become CEO of this country?

I've written about this in past columns, but a couple more things need pointing out.

First off, the question, "Will Noynoy be a good CEO?" is a wrong one. The job at hand is not CEO of a company, it is janitor of a building. What this country needs today is not someone to manage things, it is someone to clean up things. What we need today is not someone to make a business flourish, it is someone to make a dwelling place habitable, one whose previous tenant left it in a condition only cockroaches, rats, and real-estate speculators, in ascending order of predation, can appreciate. Who better to do this than Noynoy?

Or if you persist in using the CEO image, the job at hand is CEO, but only of a company that has been bankrupted by a bunch of crooks. Whom would you hire to revive it? An efficiency freak with a long résumé but who has business interests that compete with the company, who is a known tirador or beholden to people who are, and who therefore can only be trusted to efficiently pillage some more? Or someone you can trust?

Again, a no-brainer.

The applying-for-CEO idea presumes these elections are normal elections, or a peaceful transition, or a routine transfer of power like 1992 and 1998. They are not. These are extraordinary elections, a fitful transition, a still uncertain transfer of power. We need in the first place to make the transfer happen—like 1986. The pissing contest of submitting résumés presumes moreover that the contest is just elections. It is not, or it has gone beyond elections. The elections are just a battle, they are not the war. The war is not between candidates offering relative merits (or demerits), the war is between Good and Evil, between yoke and freedom, between oppression and liberation. As with 1986 and last year's US elections, the cry is the epic "We shall overcome," not the miserable "We shall underwhelm."

There's The Rub

By CONRADO DE QUIROS

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Noynoy represents the first, the rest of the field the second.

Second off, the question "Can Noynoy do it?" is a wrong one. The real question is, "Can we do it?" To paraphrase John F. Kennedy, what we need today is to ask not what the president can do for us but what we can do for the president.

That's what makes trustworthiness the most decisive qualification of all. If the president is just an InGlorious Basterd, why on earth would you want to ask yourself what you can do for your president? You would want to ask yourself only what you can do to her, particularly if she refuses to go.

Indeed, that's what shows the folly, or danger, of the CEO template. A CEO is accountable only to the stockholders, not to the hundreds of men and women employed by the company. The hundreds of men and women he can order around and fire as he pleases. Its political equivalent is that the president is accountable only to the taipans and coniotics who spent for his campaign, not to the citizens of the country. The citizens he can bully around and screw as he pleases.

That may be so for a dictatorship but not so for a democracy.

The power of a democracy does not lie in a strong leader—or heaven forbid, strong republic—it lies in a strong people. The power of a democracy does not lie in excluding the people, it lies in including the people. The folly of our elections is that it is premised precisely on excluding the people, in looking for "presidentiables" who can fill the role of Savior or Padron, who can save us from ourselves, who can spare us the need to apply ourselves to improving ourselves.

Which in any case is a monumental exercise in self-delusion. Or self-flagellation. We demand heaven but expect only hell. We ask of candidates the virtues of a messiah, but expect from the winner only the conduct of a cur or asal aso, as we say. Who seriously believes the candidates with the résumés will deliver on their promises? We get a moderate (the greed) crook, we're happy; we get an immoderate one, we say, "What else is new?"

We want to change the equation, we change ourselves. We change the way we are governed by including ourselves in our governance. Which is what a democracy is. Look at all the successful democracies and see if they are not premised on an active people, a vocal people, a people demanding to have a say in how they are governed.

I'm perfectly serious in pushing "Noypi," both in the sense of "Noypi" as "Noynoy for President Initiative" and as "Noynoy's People's Initiative." (I am aghast that another group is using that very name to promote their own political agenda!) We need to unleash the power of the people in everyday life, not just during elections, not just when things have gotten so bad we need to act to save ourselves. We need to unlock the key that makes People's Initiative—the young and feeling-young Noypi—a force in everyday life.

All this is premised on a president we can trust. All this is premised on a president who does not crave power so badly she or he won't part with it at all costs, least of all to the governed. All this is premised on a president who is as much willing to believe that the voice of the people is the voice of God as the voice of God is the voice of the people. All this is premised on a president who is one damn good person.

Can Noynoy do it? Believe it:

Yes, he can.

EDITORIAL

Imagining the worst

Now that the Supreme Court has ruled that fully automated elections will go on as scheduled, we must imagine the unimaginable—a massive failure of election or a no-proclamation scheme—and prepare for it.

First: We take constitutionalist Fr. Joaquin Bernas' proposal as our own, and call on Congress to pass a law identifying and authorizing the public official who will serve as acting president in the event that either the no-election or the no-proclamation scenarios come to pass.

Under the Constitution, if "no President and Vice-President shall have been chosen or shall have qualified" by the end of the term of the incumbent, "the President of the Senate or, in case of his inability, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, shall act as President until a President or a Vice-President shall have been chosen and qualified." But if, for some reason, we suffer a failure of election in May 2010, then in reality only a Senate President who has three more years left in his term can serve as acting president. Senate President Juan Ponce Enrile, however, is standing for reelection.

Second: We must work closely with the Commission on Elections and its partners, such as the National Movement for Free Elections and the Parish Pastoral Council for Responsible Voting, to understand the new election system as thoroughly as possible, determine its potential vulnerabilities and prepare contingency plans as necessary.

In particular, we call on the Comelec to empower Venezuela-based Smartmatic, the election automation supplier, to share the source code for its programming with a select group of information technology experts bound by the strictest confidence and non-disclosure arrangements. This will provide the Comelec with a larger pool of experts who can help it anticipate problems or go trouble-shooting when problems arise.

We also appeal to the Comelec to prepare for two elections, as it were, by preparing a contingency plan in case the election machines fail to work, or power outages interrupt the voting or the counting.

Third: We ask the authorities to work closely with the various power suppliers, to ensure that no power outages will hamper the elections and to secure power plants, transmission towers and power lines during the vote and the counting.

Fourth, and above all: We enjoin the public to maintain the utmost vigilance. Each political party must not shirk its responsibility to field watchers to protect its votes. Non-government organizations involved in getting the vote out must not slacken in its efforts to educate voters, young and old, on the new automated system. And the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police must live up to their noblest traditions and discharge their constitutional role as protector of the people.

© Philippine Daily Inquirer

Hidden history of the Pasig River

When it rains I am happy for the Pasig River because its thick polluted water will be diluted. The water level will then be higher and its stench will be reduced.

It is sad that the river that has played a role in the history of the capital is practically dead in the sense that it cannot sustain fish and other pleasant aquatic life. The Pasig River may be dead to all but organisms that promote diseases.

When people speak about the beauty of Metro Manila, they speak in the past tense. When people speak about the romantic Pasig River, they also speak in the past tense.

Today there is a river ferry that can take you from Guadalupe to Escolta in less than an hour, compared to a ride through traffic-choked streets. The river ferry is air-conditioned, efficient, comfortable. Using the river again for transportation is like going back in time.

Looking Back

By AMBETH OCAMPO

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER

Alejandro Roces said it best when he described the Pasig as a short river with a long history. It is only 25 kilometers long, dividing Metro Manila in two parts, north and south. It is a long artery connecting Manila Bay and Laguna de Bay. Depending on the season, the flow of the river changes: during the dry season when water levels are low, the flow depends on the tide, but during the wet season water flows from Laguna de Bay to Manila Bay passing through Laguna, Taguig, Taytay, Pasig, Makati, Mandaluyong and Manila.

How the water flows gives us a clue into the origin of the name "Pasig" which is said to be rooted in a Sanskrit word that describes "a river that flowed from one body of water to another." But despite this highly plausible linguistic explanation for its name, everyone is still drawn to the tragic legend of the lovers Virgilio and Paz: They were being separated by their parents, so they decided to elope and make their escape via the Pasig, but poor Virgilio fell off the banca (boat) and the terrified Paz realized he didn't know how to swim. As he sank into the water, coming up thrice gasping for air, he struggled and shouted, "Paz! Sigue me! (Paz! save me!)" His famous last words are "Paz! Sig...?" This is the most popular story on the origin of Pasig.

Another etymological explanation is that in Spanish the river was known as "El rio de Pasig." Its short form "el Pasig" happens to be an anagram of "Legaspi." And that's Miguel Lopez de Legaspi who founded Spanish Manila in 1571.

Pasig is a river with much history. It is what the Thames is to London, what the Seine is to Paris, what the Tiber is to Rome. The Pasig could be an alternative tourist attraction, except that our bridges are not as old or as pretty as those along the Seine.

There are 13 bridges that cross the Pasig from end to end: Bambang Bridge (a.k.a Napindan), C-5 Road Bridge, Guadalupe Bridge, Makati-Mandaluyong Bridge, Sevilla Bridge, Lambingan Bridge (which Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim wants to rename Corazon Aquino Bridge), Pandacan Bridge (a.k.a. P. Zamora), Mabini Bridge (formerly Nagtahan), Ayala Bridge, Quezon Bridge, McArthur Bridge, Jones Bridge, and Roxas Bridge (formerly Del Pan). All these bridges were given a face-lift in the centennial years leading to 1998, but only Mabini remains. Huge brass profiles of Mabini ornament the sides and at night the bridge has lights that change colors, reminding motorists of the interiors of seedy bars in the former red-light district in Ermita that bears the name of the "Sublime Paralytic."

The Pasig is older than Manila or May-nila (not "May nilad" as propagated by the ignorant). The Pasig is older than all the other cities that have grown along its banks. Archeological excavations in Sta. Ana revealed fantastic grave goods, Chinese ceramics dating from the 11th to the 14th century, a time long before Magellan was even born.

Today the Pasig gives the visitor a different view of the metropolis. It shows you the city from the river.

A cruise down the Pasig also helps us imagine how people traveled in the past, making us realize that the way we see and describe our surroundings has already been formed by our history. For example, when you ask children taking Araling Panlipunan to describe the Philippines, they will probably say, "The Philippines is an archipelago, a country comprised of a group of islands separated by water." While not entirely false, this statement would not have been the way a Filipino in pre-Spanish times described the archipelago. For a person who lived in the age before the coming of the wheel and the horse, for a person who lived before the construction of roads and bridges, the archipelago would have been a group of islands connected by water. In pre-Spanish times people traveled in boats. Isn't the smallest unit in our government known as the barangay, from the pre-Spanish boat balanghai? River and sea were not obstacles to the pre-Spanish Filipino. For them water connected rather than separated islands. Water connected river banks bringing people and goods together.

I have been fascinated by the Pasig for many years and have not lost my enthusiasm for its hidden history. One can only hope that more people will travel on it to appreciate both its present and its past.

When the Pasig is cleaned up and revived, then we will not speak of it in the past tense anymore.

Comments are welcome at aocampo@ateneo.edu

Samu't Sari

Saipan's hospitality
industry feted in Wine Rally

After a four-month contest period, Pacific Wine and Spirits held its final "After Hours Happy Hour" on Sept. 2, 2009, at the SandCastle of the Hyatt Regency Saipan. Hundreds of indoviduals that make up the island's hospitality industry were on hand to enjoy the free wine, the magic show, the generous buffet, and the final announcement of the winners. Hyatt Regency Saipan won this year's edition of the Wine Rally, allowing it to send one representative on a free tour of wineries in California. A Hyatt Regency waitstaff also won the $500 cash prize. Here are pictures taken of the event.

Young Style

By ELI SASLOW
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

THE WASHINGTON POST
Students at Lincoln High School in Vincennes, Ind.,say the pledge of allegiance, which the school began playing over the loudspeaker after the Sept. 11 attacks.

Sept. 11 a distant memory for many teenagers

VINCENNES, Ind.—The students filed into their social studies class just after lunch and slumped into desks where they had learned about the Civil War, Lewis and Clark, and the bombing of Pearl Harbor. On this day, teacher Michael Hutchison said, the class would feature "another of those huge moments in our history." He reminded the high school juniors and seniors that he would be grading their notes. Then he dimmed the lights and played a video on the classroom TV.

Some students set backpacks on their desks to use as pillows, and others pulled the hoods of their sweatshirts low over their eyes. "Nap time," one of them said. Meanwhile, on the screen at the front of the room, a skyscraper burned. A woman screamed. A tower crumbled. A mother sobbed as she recalled her son's final words.

"There was a fire," one student wrote in his notes.

"People died and went missing," scribbled another.

"It was an example of `terrorism,' " wrote a third.

Eight years later, this is what Sept. 11, 2001, has become for a generation that's too young to remember much, if anything, about that day: It is an educational DVD, a 167-page textbook, a black binder of class handouts titled, "A National Interdisciplinary Curriculum." In Room C215 at Lincoln High School, images of the collapsing Manhattan skyline are now a classroom "warm-up exercise." "Militant," "imploding" and "rubble" are boldfaced vocabulary words for students to memorize. Homework assignments and essay questions ensure that Sept. 11 will indeed be remembered by millions of schoolchildren, if with a new sense of detachment.

From the personal to the preserved—this is the uncomfortable transition that time requires of all great tragedies. Anthony Gardner, whose brother died on the 83rd floor of the World Trade Center's North Tower, conceived of a Sept. 11 curriculum as a tribute to the victims. He partnered with two professors in Manhattan, who partnered with an education company in San Francisco, who partnered with a cadre of researchers and copy editors, who sent the final product to a handful of test schools nationwide last week.

One copy was mailed to Hutchison, 53, a longtime history teacher in Vincennes who has never visited New York City.

On Wednesday, as Hutchison stood inside a school edged by cornfields near the Illinois border, he stared out at 22 students who have lived about half of their lives since the 2001 attacks. What they remember of that day is now scattered snapshots. One remembered his third-grade teacher saying that a plane had crashed. One remembered an administrator locking the front door to the elementary school. Parents hurried into town to stock up on gas. Neighbors hung American flags. A brother talked about being drafted to war.

"You might have been too young to realize it," Hutchison said, "but I knew that we were seeing history made as I was watching on TV."

He distributed a handout that had come with the curriculum, and the students counted the pages in each packet—"Seven, eight, (begin ital) nine! (end ital) Seriously?"—and let out a collective groan. The first two pages contained flight-path diagrams for the four planes that crashed on Sept. 11, followed by a 30-year history of U.S. relations with Afghanistan. Hutchison asked the students to form groups of four and create their own Sept. 11 timelines.

"This is going to take us forever," complained a boy in the back.

"Just try to focus until the bell rings," Hutchison said.

Over the next several weeks, if Hutchison continued to follow the curriculum, his students would eventually build their own Sept. 11 memorials, create maps of terrorist activity and debate the cleanup of Ground Zero as members of a fictitious town council. But at the end of their first day studying the attacks, Hutchison assigned a more basic task for homework: to interview somebody older about Sept. 11 and write an article based on their recollections.

"I'm going to select the two best, and those students will receive some major extra credit," Hutchison said. "So take this seriously, because it could be huge for your grade."

In the second row, a senior named JaLeah Hedrick looked up from her notes.

"Wait," she said, "extra credit?"

"Yes," Hutchison said. "Interview a few people. It can be uncles, parents, grandparents—anybody you want. Then write down whatever they can remember."

■■■

Anthony Gardner, who has never been to Vincennes, needed to remember everything. Long before he created the curriculum destined for Hutchison's classroom, Gardner, 33, taught himself to retain every detail of the terrorist attacks that changed his life.

On Sept. 11, 2001, he was a recent college graduate listening to Howard Stern's radio show while walking to work in New York. Stern interrupted one of his gags to announce that the World Trade Center had been attacked. Gardner immediately thought of his brother, Harvey, who worked on the 83rd floor of the North Tower. He called Harvey's cellphone but received a busy signal. He dialed again, and again, but never got through.

Gardner walked seven miles through Manhattan and took a ferry home to New Jersey. He searched for pictures of his brother and hung one in every room of the house. He found a video recorded at his wedding four months earlier and watched footage of Harvey laughing so hard that it jiggled the boutonniere pinned to his chest. "I had this unbelievable urge to see him," Gardner said.

Weeks passed, then months, then years, and still Harvey's body was never recovered. Craving a tangible connection to his brother, Gardner collected rocks from the rubble of the World Trade Center and filled a water bottle with wet soil from Ground Zero. He printed transcripts of news conferences, saved newspaper articles and spent six years working as the director of a nonprofit organization representing Sept. 11 victims.

"My family told me that it was unhealthy and obsessive," Gardner said. "Some things about 9/11 are still more clear in my mind than whatever happened this morning."

There was the moment a few months before the attacks, when the two brothers met for a quick lunch near the World Trade Center and idled at the base of the North Tower. Harvey mentioned the 1993 World Trade Center bombing. "Look at this thing," he said, gazing up the shimmering face of the tower. "They'll never take these buildings down."

Or the moment a few days after the attacks, when Gardner sat at his computer and created a missing-person flier. Name: Harvey J. Gardner III. Age: 35. Hair color: black. At the bottom of the sheet, under a photograph, he typed a physical description—

THE WASHINGTON POST
Social studies teacher Michael Hutchison shows a history book about the Sept 11 attacks. Eight years after the attacks on New York and Washington, students in Vincennes, Ind., have begun studying Sept. 11 as history.

"Hairline receding"—and then imagined how furious Harvey would be if he ever read it.

Or the moment later that first week, hope fading now, when Gardner stopped by his brother's house and sifted through toiletries, collecting a razorblade and a toothbrush to provide rescue workers a sample of Harvey's DNA.

Eight years? Could it really be that long? In that time, Gardner began a marriage, struggled to have children, celebrated the birth of a first baby, then a second, then a third. He changed careers three times and returned to school for two new degrees. And yet still he suffered from nightmares and wondered if he had post-traumatic stress disorder.

A few years ago, Gardner's oldest daughter asked him about Sept. 11, and he realized how vague the event must have seemed to her. She needed to remember, he decided. Everyone needed to remember. He helped form the Sept. 11 Education Trust, which conducted 100 hours of video interviews with survivors, firefighters, politicians and relatives of the victims. The videos formed the backbone for a curriculum intended to "remind everyone that 9/11 was a collective experience, affecting everyone, everywhere," Gardner said.

With the help of history professors at the Taft Institute for Government at Queens College, Gardner developed a seven-lesson curriculum intended for sixth- through 12th-graders. He spoke at a news conference in New York on Tuesday to mark the release of the curriculum, recalling eight anniversaries of the attacks. First it was mourned, then memorialized, then made into history for future generations and shipped to a high school in Indiana.

■■■

JaLeah Hedrick, 18, had never learned about Sept. 11 in school until she entered Hutchison's class this week, but consequences of that day surrounded her as she began her pursuit of extra credit. For Hedrick, Sept. 11 was the pledge of allegiance that Vincennes area schools had begun playing over loudspeakers every morning since late 2001. It was the "Threat Level Orange" that she heard each time she visited the Indianapolis airport. It was the way her grandfather, a World War II veteran, grimaced when he said, "Those Muslims." It was the USA T-shirt her dad wore when he picked her up from school in an aging Pontiac with a red-white-and-blue license plate inscribed with the phrase: "In God We Trust."

And now, it was homework—due to Hutchison by 1 p.m. Friday.

Hedrick wanted to interview her grandfather Ed Hedrick, because he is a veteran and, she said, "an American hero." Other classmates were planning to interview fathers serving in Iraq or distant relatives who had worked at the Pentagon, but Ed Hedrick, 83, was the only person his granddaughter knew whose recollections of Sept. 11 might have the gravitas worthy of extra credit.

She rode a mile across town and sat across from her grandfather on his front porch. She pulled a blue notebook and a pink pen from her backpack and then looked at a class handout that provided a list of possible interview questions. "I have to ask you some of these for homework," she told her grandfather, her eyes still fixed on the sheet. "Where were you when you first heard about the attack?"

"I was sitting in that red chair over there in the living room," he said.

She nodded and then read the next question. "Did you continue to listen to the radio or watch TV?"

"Yes," her grandfather said. "I barely moved all week. I couldn't stop watching."

"How did it affect you?" she asked.

"Severe anger, for days," he said.

"What action did you want the government to take?" she asked.

"Well, I guess I wanted them to load up three or four of those H-bombs and send them over there. That's how I felt at the time."

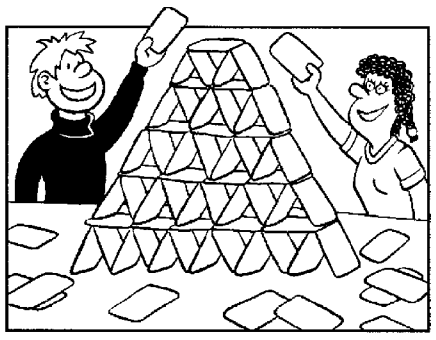
"How has it affected your daily life since?"

"Not much. I don't think about it. They teach you not to think about ugly things when you fight in a war."

Hedrick had a full page of pink notes now, enough for a good start on the assignment. She thanked her grandfather and patted him on the knee. He stood up with her, a distant look in his eyes. "I was born into a war, I fought in a war and now here's another war," he said. "You might not know it to look at me now, but when I was 18 they made me walk 25 miles with 70 pounds on my back."

"I know, Grandpa," Hedrick said. "I know."

He looked ready to tell her more, but his granddaughter was already heading into the house, the door swinging behind her. She had heard this story before. She remembered it. It was history. So she walked off the porch, carrying the class handouts on Sept. 11, and returned home to finish her assignment.



BILLY AND MARY are about to set a card house record. Can you correctly count all of the cards in this picture in 30 seconds?

Answer: We counted 67 cards. Did you find that many?

Junior Whirl

by Charles Barry Townsend

NO, THIS IS NOT BILLY GOAT HEAVEN!

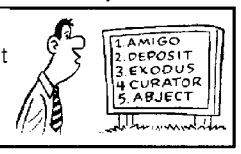
1.	C	A	N					
2.	C	A	N					
3.	C	A	N					
4.	C	A	N					
5.	C	A	N					
6.	C	A	N					
7.	C	A	N					
8.	C	A	N					
9.	C	A	N					

This is a "can-do" word puzzle for you. Each of the words in our grid begins with the word "can." Using the following hints, see if you can find these words in five minutes.

1. A Fourth of July salute.
2. Protective rooflike coverings.
3. A metal can for sugar.
4. A military hangout.
5. A delicious appetizer.
6. (slang) A prison informant.
7. Frankness or sincerity.
8. Type of picture-taking.
9. Careful and shrewd.

Illustrated by David Coulson

ODD WORD OUT!
To the right is a list of five words. Can you figure out which word doesn't belong on the list?



Answer: Abject. In the other words, every other letter is a vowel (a, e, i, o and u).

ARE YOU A "WORD" CHEERLEADER? See if you can shout out the four five-letter words needed on the right that match the definitions given below. All words must read the same across and down.

1. Shout encouragement (given).
2. To divide in two.
3. Mischievous creatures.
4. A sporting contest.
5. Cessations from work.

1 C	2 H	3 E	4 E	5 R
2 H				
3 E				
4 E				
5 R				

Answers: 1. Cheer. 2. Halve. 3. Elves. 4. Event. 5. Rests

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Answers: 1. Cannonade. 2. Canopies. 3. Canister. 4. Canteen. 5. Canape. 6. Canary. 7. Candor. 8. Candid. 9. Canny.

Drying dog's ears after a swim

DEAR PAW'S CORNER: Recently, I read about a home brew to dry dogs' ears after they get them wet from swimming. An old veterinarian of ours, who passed on several years ago, used to sell it to us. It was very effective, not only for their ears, but also for hot spots. (We solved the hot spot issue by shaving them down to a quarter-inch "do" in the summer, which they love!) Anyway, I believe the formula contained a base of alcohol, and had powdered alum and boric acid in it. Do you have a recipe that I can use on my goldens' ears?—Frank D., Linden, Mich.

DEAR FRANK: Those ingredients sound a little rough for use in your dogs' ears. Alcohol is an effective drying agent, but can cause your dogs a lot of discomfort and even pain if it touches an existing scratch or inflammation.

It's certainly important to dry a dog's ears after swimming, and to clean them regularly (at least once a month) to reduce the possibility of yeast or bacterial infections in the ear canal.

Numerous recipes for homemade cleaning solutions exist, and many contain rubbing alcohol and boric acid. But try starting with a milder solution of white vinegar and distilled water (50/50). If you're certain the dogs' ears are free of inflammation, you can replace the water with rubbing alcohol, but discontinue use if the dog becomes agitated during cleaning and consult your veterinarian.

For those who haven't cleaned their dog's ears before, put a generous amount of the solution into one ear and massage the base of the ear for a few seconds. Let the dog shake his head to drain the liquid, then lift his ear and gently wipe the visible part of the ear canal and ear flap with a cotton ball or lint-free cloth. Do not use cotton swabs.

If your dog shows signs of an ear infection (frequent head shaking, scratching the ears or a pungent odor from the ear), head to the vet for proper diagnosis and treatment.

■ ■ ■

Send your tips, questions and comments to Paw's Corner, c/o King Features Weekly Service, P.O. Box 536475, Orlando, FL 32853-6475, or e-mail them to pawscorner@hotmail.com.

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Strange BUT TRUE

By Samantha Weaver

■ It was Chinese philosopher Confucius who made the following sage observation: "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life."

■ In 1875, a locust plague of epic proportions descended upon the Great Plains. Observers say it was 110 miles wide, and, at 1,800 miles long, stretched from Canada all the way down to Texas.

■ If you ever travel to China, keep in mind that the menu item known colorfully as phoenix talons are actually just chicken feet.

■ Farming is against the law in Washington, D.C.

■ When business magnate Bill Gates was a student at Harvard, he probably wasn't taken very seriously when he told his professors that he would be a millionaire by the time he was 30 years old. Imagine their surprise when, by the time he turned 31, he was a billionaire.

■ Before entrepreneur Eddie Bauer founded his eponymous clothing line, he sold tennis and badminton equipment.

■ In ancient Rome, an augur was someone who devoted his time to predicting the future based on the behavior of birds. Yep, birds.

■ In honor of National Pizza Month (which is October, in case you didn't know), here's an interesting tidbit: The average American eats 23 pounds, or 46 slices of pizza each year.

■ When "Star Wars: Episode III—Revenge of the Sith" was released in 2005, hard-core fans went to great lengths to be among the first to see the film. One man spent 139 days camping out in front of a theater to ensure his spot, remaining connected to work via his cell phone and laptop.

■ ■ ■

Thought for the Day: "As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality."—Albert Einstein

(c) 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ● FEMALE ANIMALS

F	H	D	A	X	U	Q	N	K	H	E	B	Y	V	S
P	M	J	H	E	B	Y	V	T	Q	S	O	L	I	G
D	B	Y	W	T	R	P	M	K	N	S	I	F	S	D
B	Y	W	P	A	N	T	H	E	R	E	S	S	U	K
S	Q	O	M	K	E	I	H	E	O	D	E	F	C	R
D	B	Z	X	W	X	U	S	Q	R	R	N	U	O	E
N	L	J	H	F	I	D	C	A	G	A	D	Y	Q	Y
W	V	T	S	Q	V	P	N	I	N	P	M	L	K	L
I	H	F	E	C	W	W	T	N	N	O	C	L	A	F
B	Z	Y	W	V	U	O	Y	N	N	E	J	S	R	Q
P	N	M	L	J	I	S	C	T	E	L	L	U	P	H

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions - forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Cow	Flyer	Mare	Queen
Doe	Hen	Nanny	Sow
Duck	Jenny	Pantheress	Tigress
Falcon	Leopardess	Pullet	

©2009 King Features, Inc.

GO FIGURE! by Linda Thistle

The idea of Go Figure is to arrive at the figures given at the bottom and right-hand columns of the diagram by following the arithmetic signs in the order they are given (that is, from left to right and top to bottom). Use only the numbers below the diagram to complete its blank squares and use each of the nine numbers only once.

DIFFICULTY: ★★★

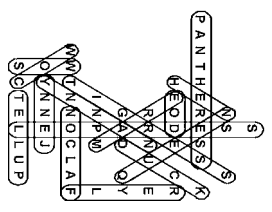
★ Moderate ★★ Difficult
★★★ GO FIGURE!

	+		÷		14
x		–		+	
	x		÷		14
+		x		+	
	x		÷		12
26		16		7	

1 2 4 4 5 6 7 8 9

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc.

MAGIC MAZE ANSWER



GO FIGURE ANSWER

12	4	÷	8	x	6
14	2	÷	7	x	4
5	+	1	÷	9	+

Make lamplight polka-dot bright

I love lampshades and how they create character in a room. Sometimes they hearken back to a more romantic time. Just walk into a specialty lampshade store and notice the beautiful silk and pleated shades in lovely curving shapes that seem to have popped right out of a Victorian parlor. And all that fringe!

But there's something else about lampshades that I like: Their inexpensive versatility. The simplest kind, once redesigned, can light up a room in more ways than one. This is great news for budget-minded families and for kids who wants to jazz up their bedrooms this fall, or for college-bound teens who are hankering for a more sophisticated space.

Whether you pick up a new, inexpensive plain-white fabric shade at Target or touch up one you already own, you'll quickly discover they're a perfect canvas to showcase your child's bright ideas and creativity. To get started, make your first attempt easy. Why not start with the happiest and simplest of designs—polka dots?

Here's the stuff you'll need:

■ Inexpensive, standard, plain-white lampshade without pleats
■ Acrylic paint from craft stores in a color that provides an accent to the room
■ Pencil
■ Newspaper
■ Paintbrush
■ Flat buttons and glue gun (optional)

Here's the fun:

1. Lightly sketch circles freehand on the lampshade with the pencil. When you are ready to paint, spread out newspaper on your work surface. Dip your brush in the paint bottle and start filling in all those circles. Go dot to dot from top to bottom. Let dry.

2. Pull out your button jar and hunt for flat buttons in contrasting colors that are smaller than the painted dots, and glue them to the center of a few or all of the dots. Add more buttons around the top and bottom rims of the shade, if you wish. Place on your lamp base.

Extra-bright ideas:

If your kids want to connect more dots, let them go wild. "What else can I decorate?" they may exclaim. Well, they can paint polka dots on wastepaper baskets, planters and placemats. Or, arrange colorful dot stickers on scrapbook covers, picture frames and school binders.

■ ■ ■

Donna Erickson's award-winning television series "Donna's Day" airs on public television nationwide. Visit www.donnasday.com to find out when it airs on your local PBS station and to sign up for Donna's e-newsletter.

(c) 2009 Donna Erickson
Distributed by King Features Synd.

Life & Style

DeGeneres says she'll be honest but kind on 'Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Ellen DeGeneres is known for being nice. But the new "American Idol" judge said that she's ready to be honest with the show's contestants, good or bad.

"I think it's going to be hard, but as my career has grown. ... I've learned how to be tougher and learned how to say no," DeGeneres said Thursday, a day after her addition to the show was announced. "I think I can do it and I think I can do it in a respectful way."

Any bluntness will be reserved for fellow judge Simon Cowell, known for his barbed remarks to contestants and colleagues.

"When Simon is rude and mean, I will tell him he's rude and mean, just like I tell him when he's on my show that he's rude and mean," DeGeneres said, referring to "The Ellen DeGeneres Show."

She'll continue with her daytime talkfest as she takes on "Idol" judging duties for the show's ninth season, starting in January.

DeGeneres, who signed a five-year deal with the top-rated Fox singing contest, said she was "shocked and excited" when the opportunity came her way.

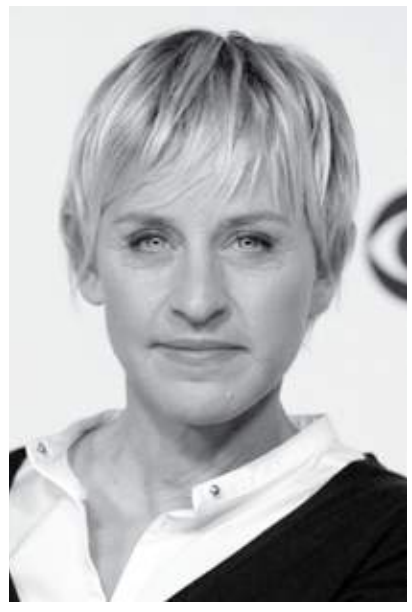
The fourth seat opened up when Paula Abdul resigned by way of Twitter in the midst of a contract dispute this summer. DeGeneres, who hasn't been part of the parade of guest judges taking Abdul's place in preseason auditions, came to the attention of "American Idol" producers another way.

After serving as a guest judge on Fox's "So You Think You Can Dance," the network and "Idol" creator Simon Fuller "started sniffing around and said, `Are you interested?' and I said, `Yes, of course. ... I love that show and I'd love to do it.'"

In online postings, some "Idol" fans have applauded the comedian's selection for the humor she'll bring to the show. Others, however, have questioned her credentials.

Cowell, Randy Jackson and Kara DioGuardi all bring deep record industry experience to their critiques.

"I know as much as anybody who goes out there and buys a record. I know what I like and I think I do know what is special and has the `it' factor," DeGeneres said in response, adding that she's brought talented new artists to public attention on her talk show.



In this Jan. 7, 2009 file photo, Ellen DeGeneres poses backstage at the 35th Annual People's Choice Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

She hesitated to name her one favorite "Idol" contestant from years past, instead listing Kelly Clarkson, Chris Daughtry, Adam Lambert, Carrie Underwood and Kellie Pickler.

But DeGeneres has a ready answer when asked if she and DioGuardi, who appeared onstage last season in a swimsuit with a contestant dubbed "Bikini Girl," might get into a similar duel.

"That I can guarantee you will never happen. I don't ever, ever like to definitely answer anything with a yes or no, but that's a no," she said firmly.

Jackson tribute to kick off MTV Music Video Awards

NEW YORK (AP)—Before MTV settles into its annual teenybopper party known as the Video Music Awards, the ceremony will have a tender moment.

Janet Jackson will kick off the show Sunday night with a tribute to her late brother. Michael Jackson's death on June 25 was soon followed by the BET Awards (where Janet Jackson also appeared), but the King of Pop was more closely aligned with MTV, the music network.

Though MTV dragged its feet at first in showing the music videos of black artists, the network's meteoric rise in the 1980s came in tandem with Jackson's, whose music videos such as "Thriller" and "Bad" set the standard for the form.

The VMAs are familiar ground for the family. Janet Jackson has won nine VMAs. Michael Jackson famously opened the 1994 VMAs by kissing his then-wife, Lisa Marie Presley.

MTV will also premiere the trailer for "This Is It," the documentary about Jackson's preparations to hold 50 concerts in London.

"There's obviously lots of emotion around Michael and the memory of Michael, but I think it's going to be a pretty celebratory kind of night all around," said Dave Sirulnick, the show's executive producer and vice president of production at MTV. "It's all about that balance."

Sirulnick declined to give specifics to the Jackson tribute, but said that there's been "quite a few people working hard on it for quite a number of weeks now."

AP

Singer-songwriter Lady Gaga poses for a portrait at Interscope Records in Santa Monica, Calif., March 11, 2009.

Since the Jacksons' heyday, though, the importance of videos has diminished greatly—a development ironically evident at the Video Music Awards. The network's trademark Moonmen trophies will be handed out (Beyonce and Lady Gaga lead the pack with nine nominations), but the awards will be a minor part of the spectacle.

Instead of a parade of speeches, the ceremony will include performances from Beyonce, Jay-Z, Green Day, Lady Gaga, Taylor Swift, Muse and Pink. The rapper Wale and go-go band UCB will serve as the house band.

"Twilight," the teenage vampire sensation, will also be a constant presence. Footage from the eagerly anticipated sequel, "New Moon," will be presented by the film's stars Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart and Taylor Lautner. Ashley Greene, a co-star in "New Moon," will serve as a fashion correspondent on the red carpet.

"It's an opportunity for a worldwide audience to look in and see what is hot right now—what is at the epicenter today," said Sirulnick.

Last year's host, British comedian and actor Russell Brand, returns for a second time to preside over the festivities. In his first time hosting, Brand memorably mocked the Jonas Brothers' purity rings.

This year's VMAs will be broadcast live on MTV and MTV.com from Radio City Music Hall in New York, beginning at 9 p.m. EDT.

Judge: Seinfeld book doesn't violate trademark

NEW YORK (AP)—A federal judge Thursday tossed out a cookbook author's claim that comedian Jerry Seinfeld's wife was a culinary copycat when she came out with her own book explaining how to entice children to eat vegetables.

U.S. District Judge Laura Taylor Swain threw out the lawsuit brought against the Seinfeld couple by Missy Chase Lapine.

The judge rejected Lapine's claims against Jessica Seinfeld, saying that the books, both best sellers, were not similar except for their goal of hiding healthy food inside the favorite meals of children.

She called Lapine's book "a dry, rather text-heavy work" done predominantly in black, gray and shades of brownish-orange. She said Seinfeld's book was "bright and cheerful, full of different colors and various patterns." Consumers who looked at each book were unlikely to be confused, the judge said, tossing out trademark infringement claims.

However, the judge declined to rule on Lapine's claim that Jerry Seinfeld libeled her on David Letterman's show last year when he noted her three names and joked that people with three names—including James Earl Ray and Mark David Chapman—have turned out to be assassins.

Daniel Craig, Hugh Jackman open play on Broadway

NEW YORK (AP)—James Bond and Wolverine have hit Broadway.

Daniel Craig and Hugh Jackman gave their first performance Thursday night in the play "A Steady Rain." In it, Craig and Jackman play Chicago police officers confronting professional and personal difficulties.

The 90-minute play, which has just two characters, arrives in New York after a well-reviewed run in Chicago with a different cast in 2007.

Craig and Jackman have significantly increased the star wattage of the production. Craig skyrocketed to film stardom as the latest cinematic James Bond, and Jackman plays Wolverine in the "X-Men" movies.

They drew a standing ovation from the sold-out Gerald Schoenfeld Theatre audience on Thursday. It was Craig's Broadway debut.

Star-driven productions have become commonplace on Broadway in recent years, with notable visits from Katie Holmes and Julia Roberts. But Jackman and Craig bring a Hollywood masculinity to the stage. (They aren't alone this season; Jude Law is performing in "Hamlet.")

Both have theater experience, too.

Jackman is a Tony winner for his performance in "The Boy From Oz." He also starred in "Carousel" at Carnegie Hall and "Oklahoma!" at the National Theater in London, among others.

Craig is less seasoned on the stage but has starred in "Hurlyburly" at the Old Vic, "Angels in America" at the National Theatre and "A Number" at the Royal Court Theatre.

"A Steady Rain" is remarkable for its staging—through storytelling and monologues—of material traditionally the domain of the movies.

AP

In this theater publicity image released by the Hartman Group, Daniel Craig, left, and Hugh Jackman from "A Steady Rain," is shown.

Jay Leno has the buzz, but will viewers respond?

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jay Leno has shed more than a dozen pounds and the weighty traditions of the "Tonight Show" that would tie his prime-time future to his late-night past.

The desk that's central to any talk show will go mostly unused. There will also be fewer stars hawking their latest movies, TV shows and albums, and instead more comedy when NBC's "The Jay Leno Show" debuts at 10 p.m. EDT Monday.

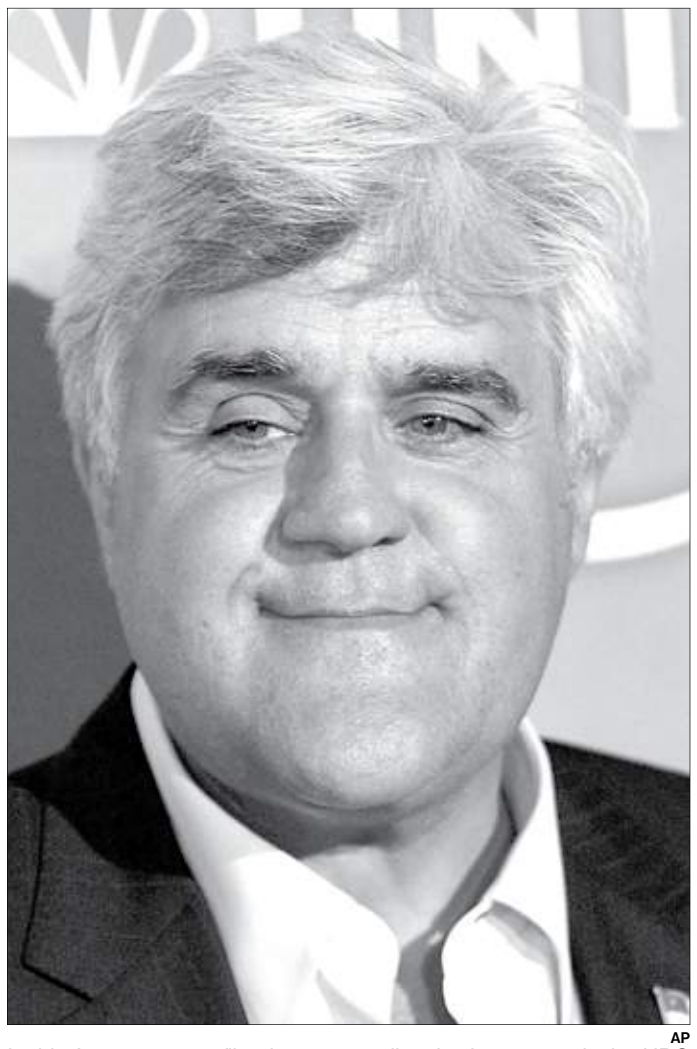
But can the newly trim, 59-year-old Leno bring major change to American television with a one-hour show five nights a week?

"I do think this is the kind of bold move that the networks need to make if they're going to hold onto any part of their primacy in the TV world," says Tim Brooks, author of "The Complete Directory to Prime-time Network and Cable TV Shows."

A prime-time show airing each weeknight is unique in U.S. television and has the potential to be copied if it's a success. "When something new comes along on TV, it proliferates all over the schedule," Brooks says.

Leno, at least publicly, won't play along. He dismissed as "hilarious" the notion that he can single-handedly reverse the shrinking fortunes of broadcast television as viewers defect to cable and other distractions.

He also rejects the idea that he's poised to be an innovator, although the car buff is proud of his new Burbank set. With artwork of his vintage cars as decoration, it displays Leno's passion for automobiles. It even has a compact race track outside so celebrities can race environmentally friendly cars.



AP

In this Aug. 5, 2009, file photo, comedian Jay Leno attends the NBC Summer press tour party in Pasadena, Calif.

"Meat and potatoes. Good food at sensible prices," he says of the new show. "That's all it really is. It's not some groundbreaking thing. It's just a comedy show."

But it is, crucially, also a budget-conscious show. Leno is taking over real estate that would have belonged to a quintet of one-hour dramas that typically cost around $3 million per episode.

"It's all economic. We're here because we can do five shows for less than the price of what it costs to do 'CSI: Miami' or a 'Law & Order,'" Leno says. "That's primary. It's No. 1." And when most of the series that NBC has fielded in recent seasons are both expensive and flops, the logic becomes unassailable, he contends.

There's another parameter that "The Jay Leno Show" respects, according to its host: the audience demand for immediacy, whether in live reality series such as "American Idol" or a comedy show that's taped the day it airs and avoids reruns save for six weeks a year.

"TV has changed. It's all about what's happening right now," Leno says.

That's an unsettling reality for the scripted dramas, which at 10 p.m. are now found only on ABC and CBS (Fox doesn't program the third hour of prime time on its stations).

The changes have also put many screenwriters out of work. Only the increasingly robust cable dramas such as "Mad Men" or "Damages" are hiring.

Actor-comedian Rachael Harris ("The Hangover"), who will be among Leno's comedy correspondents, says she understands that writers are frustrated at seeing so many jobs vanish. But her writer friends, at least, can see it from her perspective.

"They understand that not only is it difficult for writers, but it's difficult for actors," Harris says. Besides, she adds, there are people who worked on Leno's "Tonight" who are grateful to have a job on his new show—and, according to Leno, those include 22 union scribes.

Besides helping fashion the opening monologue, Leno's team is working on popular fixtures including "Jaywalking," his person-in-the street pop quiz, and funny headlines (the sole reason there's still a desk on the set).

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

La Toya Jackson says Michael was 'God-like'

NEW YORK (AP)—La Toya Jackson says her brother Michael looked fabulous when he was laid to rest last week. In an interview on ABC's "20/20," she tells Barbara Walters that the King of Pop was dressed in white pearl beads and a big gold belt. He was wearing full makeup, with sunglasses and a white glove placed in the casket with him. Michael's death in June from a fatal combination of drugs has been ruled a homicide. La Toya says she blames the doctors who gave him drugs. She says: "This is going against their license." Her brother was special, she says, explaining that "he wasn't God, but he was certainly God-like." The interview is scheduled to air Friday at 10 p.m. Eastern time.

Illness forcing Maura Tierney from 'Parenthood'

NEW YORK (AP)—Maura Tierney says she is dropping out of the new NBC series "Parenthood" to continue her treatment for breast cancer. In a statement Thursday, she expressed disappointment at not being part of the show, but said she and her doctors remain confident about the outcome of her treatment. Tierney had filmed the pilot episode for the series, which was scheduled to premiere this month. But she was sidelined in July, after a tumor was found in her breast, requiring surgery. Production never resumed. Another new series, the medical drama "Mercy," will premiere this fall instead. "Parenthood," based on the 1989 movie that starred Steve Martin, is now set to debut midseason. Tierney's role—that of a financially strapped single mother who returns home to her parents—is expected to be recast. NBC expressed sadness at Tierney leaving the series, but added, "our main concern is for her quick and full recovery." Tierney, 44, was a longrunning cast member of the NBC drama "ER" and recently has been seen on the FX drama "Rescue Me."

Gwen Stefani rocks the '80s at NY Fashion Week

NEW YORK (AP)—Gwen Stefani is rocking the '80s well into 2010, presenting a LAMB collection on Thursday that included off-the-shoulder "Flashdance" tops and acid-wash jeans. There was a punk vibe to some of the spring season outfits, including studded suspenders attached to the skinniest of skinny black jeans and racy lace tights worn only with a body suit. However, an animal-print T-shirt dress and a plaid blanket top would be wearable for far more shoppers. With her street cred as a bona fide rock star and a solid reputation in the fashion world, Stefani can pull off balloon shorts and a one-shoulder T-shirt in a way that many other designers can't. She also could probably wear the white, cowl neck jumpsuit with harem pants that was shown at the downtown MAC and Milk venue, but that outfit would land most people on a fashion "don't" list. To take her bow, Stefani wore black cargo pants and an asymmetrical jacket. Her hair matched the models with a pouf right at the front.

AP

Designer and recording artist Gwen Stefani poses next to her fashion line L.A.M.B during fashion week, in New York, on Wednesday, Sept. 9, 2009.

Broadway musical in the works about Woodstock

NEW YORK (AP)—First it was an iconic concert, then an acclaimed documentary. It was followed by countless books and recordings, not to mention a recent film by Ang Lee. Next, it'll be a Broadway musical. The concert's producer and his business partner said Thursday that a new musical celebrating Woodstock is in the works for the 2010-2011 theater season. It is based on Michael Lang's best-selling book, "The Road to Woodstock." Lang co-founded and produced the 1969 concert. Lang and partner Sam Nappi say there's no title yet, and the show's creative team is being assembled. It will feature new music as well as songs performed at the concert.

Girl finds nothing right about dating Mr. Wrong

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: I'm 19 and currently dating a guy I can't stand. I don't know what to do. He's leaving next year and my friends tell me I should just bear with it until then. I don't know if I can.

He doesn't respect my opinions, makes fun of my taste in music and literature and is basically a know-it-all. Religion is also an issue: He's an atheist and I'm a Christian. I don't feel comfortable being serious with someone who has no qualms about calling my beliefs "b.s." to my face as well as behind my back. I also don't feel comfortable with premarital sex, but he's sure he can change my mind. He constantly reminds me how "patient" he can be about it.

Abby, it's such a mess. I feel like hiding in my room and not answering the phone.

DESPERATE IN TUCSON

DEAR DESPERATE: It's time to stand up for yourself. Do not hide or avoid picking up the phone. The next time that egotistical creep—and that's what he is—calls, say, "It's over!" If he asks why, tell him you're not interested in having anything to do with anyone who belittles you and calls your religious beliefs "b.s.," and regardless of how "patient" he is, you will never sleep with him. Do not talk to him after that. Screen your calls, and if he asks to see you "just one more time," avoid him.

DEAR ABBY: All of my boyfriend "Alex's" close friends have been in jail or in rehab. I know they're good people who made some poor choices, but I don't like associating with them or inviting them to events with my friends and family.

Alex understands why they're not invited and hangs out with them on his own time, and I understand that he's loyal to his friends.

Alex has a good job. He comes from a good family and makes good decisions in life. None of his friends can say the same. I realize my boyfriend is different from them, but I'm concerned about why he continues associating with them. Can you help me understand?

CHOOSY IN SAN JOSE

DEAR CHOOSY: Your boyfriend associates with them because he is comfortable with them, and I don't blame you for being concerned. Granted, Alex comes from a good family, has a good job and makes "good decisions in life." But I'd be worried, too, if my boyfriend surrounded himself only with people who have had serious problems. It could indicate that although Alex has everything going for him, he may not feel good about himself.

DEAR ABBY: I recently baby-sat with my 4-year-old grandson for almost a week. During that time I noticed he was using the word "ain't." My daughter, a college graduate, lives about an hour away in a more rural area. She became very defensive when I mentioned it, and told me it is accepted in the South and he will continue to use that word.

I am concerned about the limiting effect I feel this may have on my grandson's future life and opportunities. What are your thoughts on this issue, and how should I behave?

GRAMMAR GRANDMA IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR GRANDMA: Parents who fail to teach their children proper grammar are doing their children no favor. Obviously, your grandson is mimicking the kind of speech he's hearing around him—and probably at home.

How should you behave? Continue to model proper English grammar when he's with you, encourage him to use it and remind him when he forgets.

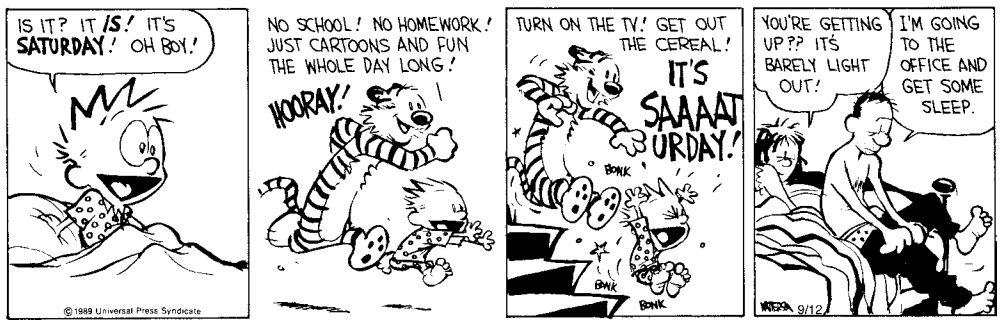
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


IS IT? IT IS! IT'S SATURDAY! OH BOY!
© 1989 Universal Press Syndicate
NO SCHOOL! NO HOMEWORK! JUST CARTOONS AND FUN THE WHOLE DAY LONG!
HOORAY!
TURN ON THE TV! GET OUT THE CEREAL!
IT'S SAAAAT URDAY!
BONK
BONK
BONK
YOU'RE GETTING UP?? IT'S BARELY LIGHT OUT!
I'M GOING TO THE OFFICE AND GET SOME SLEEP.
9/12

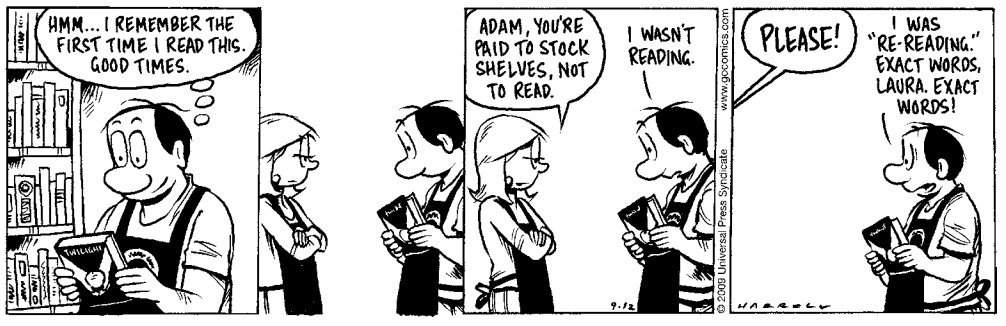
Garfield®

By Jim Davis

I'M WRITING A LOVE NOTE TO LIZ
AND WE NEED A DOZEN CANS OF TUNA
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate
www.garfield.com
NOT EVERYTHING IS A SHOPPING LIST, GARFIELD
TELL ME YOU'RE KIDDING!
© 2009 PAWS, INC. All Rights Reserved.
JIM DAVIS 9-12

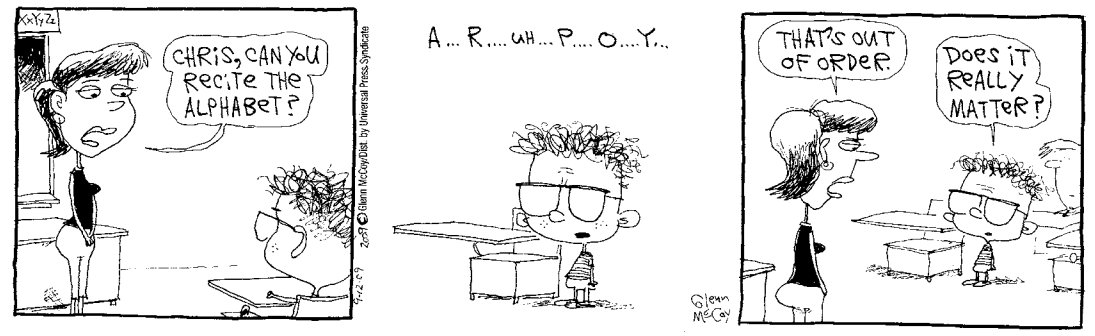
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


HMM... I REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME I READ THIS. GOOD TIMES.
ADAM, YOU'RE PAID TO STOCK SHELVES, NOT TO READ.
I WASN'T READING.
PLEASE!
I WAS "RE-READING." EXACT WORDS, LAURA. EXACT WORDS!
© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate
www.gocomics.com
9-12

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 Artery insert
6 Subject
11 Dempsey, the "Manassa —"
12 Fairy king
14 "Out of —"
15 "Friends" role
16 Rather or Marino
17 1971 Jane Fonda movie
19 Drunkard
20 Desertlike
22 From — Z
23 Trim
24 Less important
26 Diplomats' place
28 Ultramodernist
30 Cul-de-—
31 Napes
35 Figure of speech
39 Gridlock sound
40 Bear hair
42 "Beowulf," e.g.
43 Curvaceous character
44 Bundle of wheat
46 — Aviv
47 Ancient Greek state
49 Cement ingredient
51 Robin's love
52 Kent's newspaper
53 Scottish landowner
54 Safecrackers

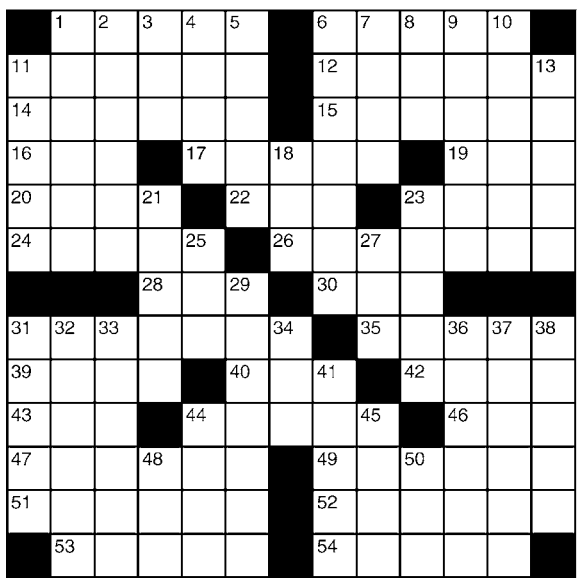
DOWN

1 Jungle trek
2 Go to bed
3 Inventor Whitney
4 Do some spooning
5 Refrain syllables
6 Handbeaten drums
7 Clarinet's cousin
8 Corral
9 Van Gogh painting
10 Winter warmers
11 "— Secretary" (Albright book)
13 Neat and trim
18 Multipurpose truck
21 Treat for Homer Simpson
23 Mother-of-pearl
25 Ump
27 Cudgel
29 Informal
31 Watt's power
32 Rib-related
33 Speakers' platforms
34 Seek restitution
36 Making up one's mind
37 Jigsaw puzzle parts
38 Brilliance
41 Grating
44 "Lion King" villain
45 Manicurist's device
48 Midafternoon hour
50 Trail the pack

Solution time: 27 mins.

A	C	T	O	R	■	O	F	A	■	A	F	B
P	R	O	M	O	■	S	O	P	■	L	E	A
R	I	P	E	N	■	T	O	P	C	O	A	T
■	■	I	N	D	E	E	D	■	H	O	S	T
A	H	A	■	O	V	A	■	H	E	F	T	Y
D	A	R	T	■	A	L	D	E	N	■	■	■
S	T	Y	R	O	N	■	O	N	E	T	W	O
■	■	■	E	S	S	A	Y	■	Y	O	D	A
M	A	Y	B	E	■	R	E	M	■	P	S	T
O	D	I	E	■	D	E	N	I	R	O	■	■
T	O	P	K	N	O	T	■	D	I	N	A	R
O	R	E	■	A	S	H	■	S	T	Y	L	E
R	E	S	■	P	E	A	■	T	E	M	P	T

Yesterday's answer 9-12



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Emmy Rossum, 23; Yao Ming, 29; Benjamin McKenzie, 31; Ruben Studdard, 31

Happy Birthday: You can expect emotional setbacks regarding home and family, as well as a change in your original plans for the year ahead. Stick to what you know best and follow through. It's all about you this year, so stop trying to please everyone around you. Your numbers are 9, 17, 24, 33, 38, 41, 45

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Dealing with personal matters will take up all your time. You have to address what everyone is facing before you make a decision. If you don't act fast, you may lose out on an opportunity. ✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Reassess your situation and review how you have handled matters in the past. You will want to make a few adjustments now so that you don't end up in a position that leaves you with extra responsibilities. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): You may feel subject to pressure regarding a financial deal. Before you sign on the dotted line or take someone's word for it, do your own fact-finding. There are always other options, so slow down and see what else turns up. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You'll be tempted to get involved in something a little different but, before you do, consider the outcome. It's interesting to try new things but most likely what you have built over the years is too substantial to give up now. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You've got lots to look forward to if you just relax and have a little fun time. Love is in the picture and, if you spend time with someone you consider to be special, new ideas will develop and lead to an interesting future, offering romance and adventure. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Don't be fooled by what others do. Question anything that appears the least bit unorthodox and you will discover what you need to know in order to make some serious life changes. Your position and your future may be at stake if you let someone else make your decisions. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): You need a break. Whether you visit a friend, take a vacation or just frequent places in your city you've never been before, the experience will bring you increased insight. Act intuitively regarding your goals and future plans. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Someone will cause you grief if you are trying to make changes to yourself or your home. Make sure you are ready for the opposition. In time, those who interfere will realize you know what you are doing. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Someone will want information that will infringe on your privacy or lead to pulling out of an event or activity you were planning to do together. Your life can easily change financially, emotionally and physically if you make the wrong decision. ✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): Say what you have to say but don't expect it to be well received. Once you have unloaded your differences, you can put it behind you and continue in a more suitable direction without feeling guilty. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): Choose your friends wisely. Self-improvements will attract people who can do a lot more to enhance your life. A romantic relationship will lead to a new outlook and lifestyle that will enable you to prosper. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): A conflict with someone will cause problems by interfering in an opportunity you want to take advantage of. You can counteract any meddling fast by being understanding but firm, using love and affection to help explain your reasoning. It's your life. ✪✪✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are emotional, sensitive and caring. You are strong-willed and intense. You like to debate and are observant and well-informed.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun,* ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations*

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

COPYRIGHT 2007 UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				3	2			
		6			8	3		
	2						1	
					9		7	2
7								4
3	1		5					
	4						9	
		5	1			6		
			4	5				

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/12

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

6	9	4	1	8	2	3	7	5
1	3	8	6	7	5	2	4	9
2	7	5	3	4	9	1	6	8
4	6	7	9	1	3	8	5	2
9	1	2	7	5	8	6	3	4
8	5	3	2	6	4	9	1	7
3	8	6	5	2	7	4	9	1
5	2	1	4	9	6	7	8	3
7	4	9	8	3	1	5	2	6

Difficulty Level ★★★★ 9/11

©2007 Conceptis Puzzles, Dist. by King Features Syndicate, Inc.

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CYCLING **Solution: 6 letters**

R	N	O	I	T	A	T	R	O	P	S	N	A	R	T
T	E	M	L	E	H	O	B	B	Y	F	C	A	E	A
T	D	E	L	D	N	A	H	R	R	C	I	S	C	N
R	I	T	T	P	O	T	S	O	E	S	T	F	R	D
I	U	A	A	S	U	S	N	L	E	S	(R)	D	E	E
A	G	L	N	R	P	T	E	E	D	A	(A)	R	A	M
P	N	E	N	I	E	R	E	A	M	V	(E)	A	T	A
E	I	R	H	E	A	S	O	E	D	P	(G)	W	I	N
R	R	U	R	T	I	R	A	C	E	E	I	P	O	E
E	P	T	I	C	R	E	R	F	K	L	G	U	N	U
H	S	N	R	E	V	A	E	E	E	E	D	G	Q	V
T	G	E	T	I	R	E	F	N	T	T	T	D	U	E
A	X	V	R	A	P	I	L	F	A	L	Y	S	A	R
E	E	D	I	R	E	T	H	R	I	L	L	E	G	S
W	L	A	N	G	I	S	M	I	R	C	U	R	V	E

© 2009 Universal Press Syndicate www.wonderword.com 9/12

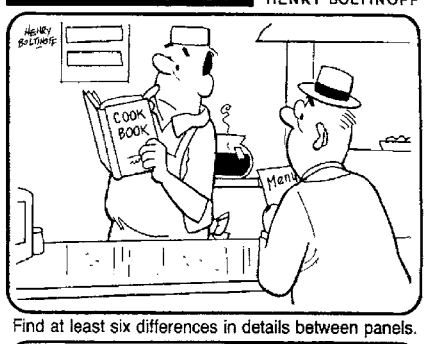
Accelerating, Adventure, Curve, Drive, Equipment, Exercise, Flip, Frame, Front, Gear, Guide, Handle, Helmet, Hips, Hobby, Lane, Legs, Maneuver, Metal, Raise, Recreation, Repair, Ride, Rims, Roads, Rugged, Saddle, Safety, Seat, Signal, Spring, Sprockets, Steer, Stop, Street, Tandem, Terrain, Test, Thrill, Tire, Traffic, Transportation, Turn, Upward, Weather

Yesterday's Answer: Aromatic

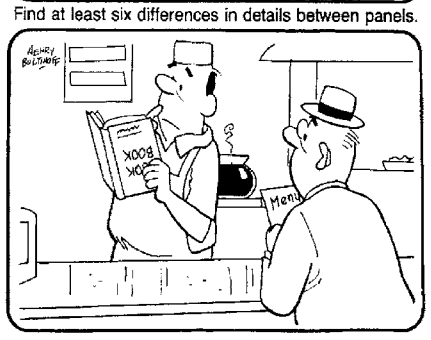
NEW FROM WONDERWORD! The Wonderword 2010 Desk Calendar is now available for pre-order on Amazon.com and Calendars.com. Search: "Wonderword Calendar." Order yours today!

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Cookbook is upside down. 2. Coffee level is higher. 3. Apron bow is missing. 4. Salt shaker is gone 5. Customer's collar is different. 6. Cook's hat is taller.

© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Wishing Well®

5	3	6	2	5	4	5	3	2	6	8	2	8
W	G	B	A	I	S	S	I	C	E	K	H	E
4	6	7	5	7	5	3	8	4	5	6	2	4
T	S	J	D	O	O	V	E	A	M	E	A	Y
5	3	5	8	2	3	4	5	7	5	3	2	8
I	E	S	P	N	I	F	G	Y	A	T	G	P
4	5	3	2	3	5	8	6	2	3	4	5	7
O	I	Y	E	O	N	R	L	I	U	C	E	F
2	3	6	5	2	7	6	4	6	3	8	3	2
N	R	F	D	S	R	R	U	E	B	O	E	T
7	2	6	7	3	8	2	3	6	7	4	6	7
O	A	L	M	S	M	T	T	I	M	S	A	U
6	2	7	8	6	8	2	4	7	8	4	7	8
N	U	S	I	T	S	S	E	I	E	D	C	S

HERE IS A PLEASANT LITTLE GAME that will give you a message every day. It's a numerical puzzle designed to spell out your fortune. Count the letters in your first name. If the number of letters is 6 or more, subtract 4. If the number is less than 6, add 3. The result is your key number. Start at the upper left-hand corner and check one of your key numbers, left to right. Then read the message the letters under the checked figures give you.

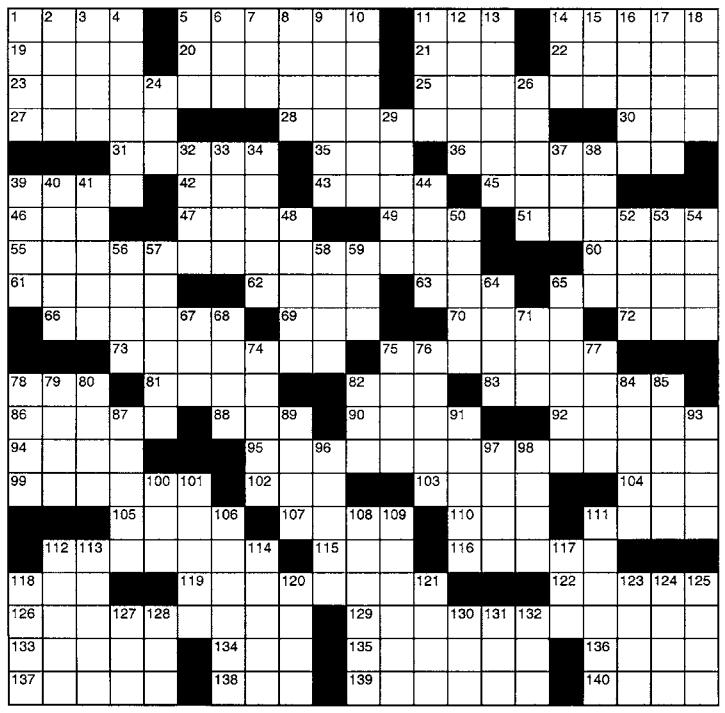
© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Super Crossword

ALONG CAME JOANS

ACROSS
1 Spar
5 Stomach remedy
11 Tijuana two
14 Bob Marley was one
19 Literary pseudonym
20 Deny
21 Turner or Pappas
22 Remove a corsage
23 Joan Cusack film
25 Joan Rivers line
27 Hero's horse
28 Brasilia architect Oscar
30 Neighbor of Mont.
31 Little spot in the sea
35 Psychic Geller
36 Triangle type
39 Cut
42 Coach Parseghian
43 Blabby bird
45 Zenith
46 Rhine whine
47 Dana and Seixas
49 Precambrian —
51 Ho Chi Minh City, once
55 Joan Jett's group
60 Ms. Montez
61 — firma
62 Jedi instructor
63 "— vous plait"
65 Cherbourg chapeau
66 Acted like a stallion
69 "Yuck!"
70 Bargain
72 Raven maven?
73 Joan Collins series
75 Joan Osborne hit
78 Mil. address
81 Hit the Haagen-Dazs
82 Fr. lady
83 Showers, in winter
86 Enjoy the weekend
88 Behave like a bunny
90 Gross subj.
92 Rested
94 Israeli airline
95 Joan Didion book
99 Declare
102 Proverb
103 European capital
104 82 Across, farther south
105 De Lesseps' canal
107 Highflying agcy.
110 "Krazy —"
111 Director Peter
112 Nursery noisemakers
115 Gun the engine
116 Guru
118 — polloi
119 Germs
122 Certain marble
126 Joan Sutherland's birthplace
129 Joan Van Ark role
133 Nome dome home?
134 Habitually, to Herrick
135 Clementi compositions
136 Cultural grp.
137 "Superman" star
138 Carrere or Mowry
139 Reduce in rank
140 Disposition

DOWN
1 Cat calls?
2 Heaps
3 Father
4 Comprehend
5 Lodging
6 Violin part
7 Souffle ingredient
8 First base man?
9 Impressive lobby
10 Dieter's snack
11 Casino cubes
12 Endorses
13 Nero's tutor
14 "Golden Girl" McClanahan
15 Farm animal?
16 Where to hear zarzuela
17 Diacritical mark
18 "Puppy Love" singer
24 Drivers' lics., e.g.
26 Shawls and such
29 He gets down to work
32 Etna ooze
33 Hockey's Lindros
34 Vulgar
37 Meadow
38 Ovid's fate
39 "The Simpsons" creator Groening
40 Paint pigment
41 "— ignorance is bliss . . ."
44 Part of M.A.
48 "Twist and —" ('62 hit)
50 Out of the way
52 Trail mix
53 Butter sub
54 Hoopster Archibald
56 Nail type
57 It's down in the mouth
58 Nervous
59 Contented sigh
64 Composer Janacek
65 Most morose
67 Rock producer Brian
68 Salt serving
71 Workers' grp.
74 Has a ball at the mall
75 Bus starter?
76 Peachy-keen
77 Push a product
78 Locality
79 Lucre
80 Norwegian name
82 Merry month
84 Make one's hair stand on end?
85 "Heidi" author
87 "He's making — . . ."
89 Scheme
91 Chores
93 Godunov, e.g.
96 Cognizant
97 Cabbage concoction
98 Bit
100 Furrow
101 Diva Nellie
106 Radical
108 Socked a shuttlecock
109 Pilot
111 Little house on the prairie?
112 It makes women blush
113 Passageway
114 Bookstore section
117 Ginnie —
118 It grows on you
120 "Later!"
121 Grad
123 Singer Vannelli
124 "So — You" ('77 song)
125 "Heavens to Betsy!"
127 "Mazel —!"
128 "Sheila" singer
130 Ancient Tokyo
131 Ensnare
132 Nationality suffix



© 2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

Trivia test by Fifi Rodriguez

1. MUSIC: Who played the drums in the '60s pop music band "The Monkees"?
2. MEDICAL TERMS: What does it mean to suffer from "dysorexia"?
3. AD SLOGANs: Which airline asked customers in its advertising to "fly the friendly skies"?
4. PSYCHOLOGY: If someone had lachanophobia, what would he or she be afraid of?
5. ANIMAL KINGDOM: How many teeth does an adult pig have?
6. HISTORY: Which war of the 20th century was the first in which poison gas was used?
7. FAMOUS QUOTES: Which comedian once said, "I was married by a judge. I should have asked for a jury"?
8. GEOGRAPHY: What country's basic monetary unit is the rand?
9. LITERATURE: Who wrote the first American dictionary?
10. ENTERTAINERS: What was Gene Wilder's birth name?

Answers

1. Mickey Dolenz
2. Reduced appetite
3. United Airlines
4. Fear of vegetables
5. 44
6. World War I (1915)
7. Groucho Marx
8. South Africa
9. Noah Webster
10. Jerome Silberman

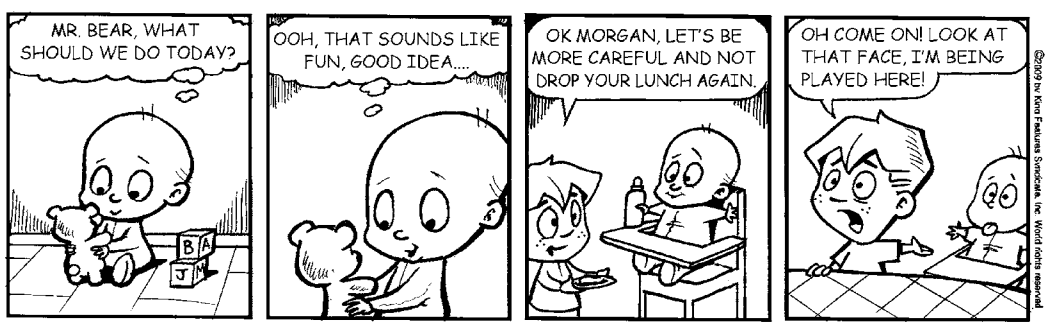
© 2009 King Features Synd., Inc.

Saturday's Answers

POPEYE
HEY EISMAN
WE SHOULD DO THIS MORE OFTEN
YA MEAN WALKIN'?
NOT JUST WALKING, SILLY
I MEAN WALKING IN THE MOONLIGHT
IT WOULD HELP US TO COMMUNICATE
HOW DUZZIT DO THAT?
IT MAKES YOU TALK ABOUT IMPORTANT FEELINGS...
...FOR INSTANCE, WHAT DOES THAT MOON SAY TO YOU?
OH···I SEE WOTCHA MEAN...
...THAT MOON SEZ TA ME THAT IT'S GONNA BE A GREAT DAY FER FISHIN' T'MORRA!
INSENSITIVE CLOD!
WAIT! OLIVE! YA NEVER TOL' ME WOT IT SEZ TA YOU!
HEY EISMAN 9-6
www.kingfeatures.com

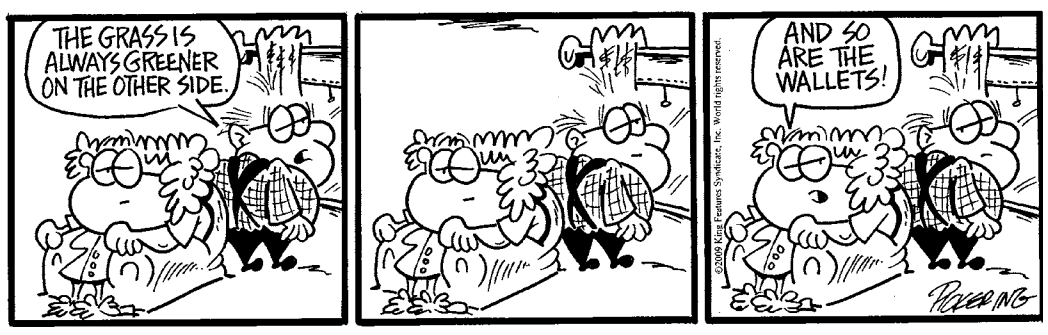
Amber Waves

by Dave T. Phipps


MR. BEAR, WHAT SHOULD WE DO TODAY?
OOH, THAT SOUNDS LIKE FUN, GOOD IDEA...
OK MORGAN, LET'S BE MORE CAREFUL AND NOT DROP YOUR LUNCH AGAIN.
OH COME ON! LOOK AT THAT FACE, I'M BEING PLAYED HERE!
©2009 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.

The Spats

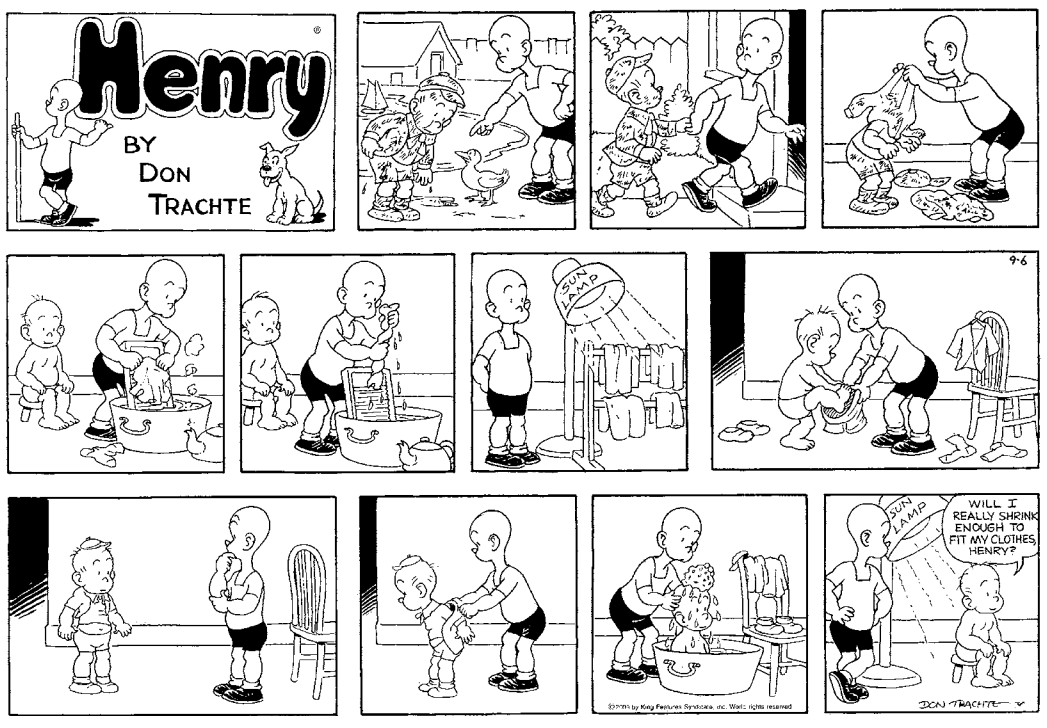
by Jeff Pickering


THE GRASS IS ALWAYS GREENER ON THE OTHER SIDE.
AND SO ARE THE WALLETS!
©2009 King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
PICKERING

They'll Do It Every Time

by Al Scaduto

MEDICAL UPDATE— IT HASN'T HAPPENED YET, BUT GIVE IT TIME···
THERE! WE'VE FINALLY DEVELOPED A PRESCRIPTION BOTTLE NOBODY CAN OPEN···
UGH-H-U-UGH-
Thanx to BRAD KULP (NO LOCATION GIVEN)
©2005 by King Features Syndicate, Inc. World rights reserved.
www.kingfeatures.com
YOU KNOW YOU'RE GETTING OLD WHEN—
I WOULD PROPOSE ON MY KNEES, BUT I HAVE ARTHRITIS ···
AL SCADUTO 9-25
Thanx to P.J. CUMMINGS, ST. LOUIS, MO.
OFFICE PESTS WE CAN DO WITHOUT— THE NERD WHO COULD NEVER GET INTERESTED IN FOOTBALL TAKES A CHANCE IN THE OFFICE FOOTBALL POOL··· and— LOOK AT HIM NOW···
Thanx to E. PRODY, BRONX, N.Y.
WHO WON? WHAT WAS THE SCORE?
WHERE'S A RADIO?
ANYBODY GOT THE LATEST NEWSPAPER?
HOW MUCH DOES LOW SCORE PAY?
HOW MANY TOUCH-DOWNS?
IMAGINE WHAT HE'D BE LIKE IF THE POOL WAS MORE THAN A BUCK···
AL.SCADUTO@OPTONLINE.NET



CLASSIFIED ADS

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	$25
• 5-Liner	$35
• 3-Liner with picture	$45
• 5-Liner with picture	$55

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?™

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

© 2009 WHATZIT? is a trademark of Paul Sellers
Distributed by Universal Press Syndicate

Find today's solution in this section

DRUNK DRIVING
Over the limit. Under arrest.

BAR FOR SALE
CLUB BILLY BONES
LOCATED IN GARAPAN
✦ COMPLETE TURNKEY OPPORTUNITY
✦ PRICED FOR QUICK SALE
CONTACT MARY @ 287-4299

NEW HOUSE FOR RENT

2 B/R 2.5 BT, LOCATED IN CHALAN PIAO BEACH AREA, STARTING $500.00 MONTHLY. WITH WATER HEATER, GARBAGE, GOV. WATER AND ELECTRICITY, 1,000 GALLON WATER RESERVE, WASHER / DRYER, TV & TELEPHONE HOOK UP, ALONG WITH YAMAHA PIANO, KING SIZE BED, LARGE SIZE FREEZER, 6 DRAWER DRESSER. FULLY AIR CONDITIONED WITH 3 STRIP AIR CONDITIONERS.

FULLY FENCED WITH CHAIN LINK AROUND THE 862 SQ MT YARD & QUITE NEIGBORHOOD.

WALKING DISTANCE TO U.S. MAIN POST OFFICE, CHALAN KANOA BEACH HOTEL & GOLDEN RIBBON RESTAURANT.

CALL DOMINGO MERCADO
HOME 288-3571 / CELL 286-3571.

Saipan Tribune
CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Fitial says decision to end Aggreko 'far from certain'
CUC emergency extended anew
'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'
9 percent drop in foreign investors
Sports
Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
235- NEWS
www.saipantribune.com

FOR SALE

Two-20 foot steel shipping container. Excellent condition. Cheap! Call 287-1073.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

WHATZIT Solution: Think it over

Steelers lean on Big Ben's arm to top Titans in OT

PITTSBURGH (AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers apparently are going to stay with this Ben Roethlisberger to Santonio Holmes combination until somebody beats them.

Jeff Reed kicked a 33-yard field goal with 4:32 gone in overtime and the Super Bowl champion Steelers again relied on Roethlisberger's ability to lead clutch scoring drives to beat the Tennessee Titans 13-10 in the NFL season opener Thursday night.

The Steelers, their running game stuffed by Tennessee's defense, didn't get going until Roethlisberger began repeatedly finding Holmes and Hines Ward open downfield. Roethlisberger went 33 of 43 for 363 yards, with Holmes—the Super Bowl star—making nine catches for 131 yards and a touchdown and Ward, despite a potentially costly fumble, making eight for 103.

Holmes' statistics were exactly the same as the Super Bowl, when he caught the winning 6-yard touchdown pass from Roethlisberger in the final minute to beat Arizona 27-23.

Thursday's victory might be costly, however—star safety Troy Polamalu, the best player on the field during the first half, sprained the medial collateral ligament in his left knee on a blocked field goal. Coach Mike Tomlin said the injury usually sidelines a player 3 to 6 weeks.

"It is speculation at this point (how long he will be out)," Tomlin said.

The Titans lost the coin toss to start the overtime and, as so often happens, never saw the ball again. Roethlisberger, who led a touchdown drive at the end of the first half, hit Ward for 11 yards, Holmes for 11 and rookie Mike Wallace for 22. Unwilling to risk a turnover, the Steelers kicked the field goal on first down to win it.

"It's nice to know we can win close games," Reed said. "This is my eighth year here and I've been in a lot of close games, and we usually are on the up side of those."

While the Steelers ended up winning on two Reed field goals, the Titans may have lost because Rod Bironas twice couldn't convert from inside the 40.

"The Pittsburgh Steelers didn't beat the Tennessee Titans, the Tennessee Titans beat the Tennessee Titans," said wide receiver Nate Washington, the former Steelers player.

Pittsburgh looked ready to win it late in regulation when Roethlisberger, so adept at running the two-minute offense, took advantage of good field position created by a shanked Craig Hentrich punt to find Ward on a 30-yard completion to the Titans 4. But as Ward was trying to muscle his way closer to the goal line, Michael Griffin stripped the ball and Stephen Tulloch recovered with less than a minute remaining.

Even with no running game to support him—the Steelers were outrushed 86-36 as Willie Parker was held to 19 yards on 13 carries—Roethlisberger had the third-most productive passing game of his career. Tennessee's Kerry Collins, usually the caretaker of a run-first offense, was 22 of 35 for 244 yards after having only four games of 200 yards or more last season.

The Titans never led until Bironas connected from 45 yards with 11:03 remaining, making it 10-7, after Collins kept the drive moving with 15-yard completions to rookie Kenny Britt and Justin Gage.

"We had chances and opportunities but missed a field goal, had a field goal blocked," coach Jeff Fisher said. "I believe we've got a good football team in that locker room and we're going to bounce back."

The Steelers tied it on Reed's 32-yarder with 2:57 to go, but only after Mewelde Moore was held to 1 yard on two plays. Reed, under pressure, barely got off a low line drive that squeezed through the uprights.

Roethlisberger was 7 of 7 for 57 yards on the drive but the Steelers' game-long lack of a running game again caused a drive to stall after they had a second-and-2 at the 10.

The Titans were the last team to beat the Steelers, winning 31-17 on Dec. 21 to gain home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs, but they never won again and the Steelers never lost again. Still, Steelers' fans remembered how LenDale White, Keith Bulluck and several Titans players stomped all over Terrible Towels at the end of the game, and it created a buzz of anticipation for a rematch that appeared likely to occur in January but didn't.

Instead, this game wasn't a throwback to last season, but to the 1970s, when the Titans' predecessors, the Oilers, twice met and lost to the Steelers and their famed Steel Curtain defense in the AFC championship game. All that was missing were some Jack Lambert hits on Earl Campbell.

"It was a 15-round, old-school Muhammad Ali-Joe Frazier fight that went the distance," Bulluck said.

The Titans spent the first quarter tromping on a Steelers offense that managed all of 1 yard. Then, after Bironas' 31-yarder was blocked by Aaron Smith—he missed earlier from the 27 following a bad snap—both teams suddenly found their offenses.

"I got my hand up," Smith said. "I jumped and my vertical is probably not that good, but ..." Roethlisberger, again a master of the two-minute drive, needed only five plays to lead a 79-yard drive in which he found familiar target Ward for 29 yards ahead of his 34-yard touchdown throw to Holmes.

Yes, those two again.

With the Steelers defense missing both Polamalu, who had earlier made a remarkable, one-handed interception, and linebacker LaMarr Woodley (leg cramps), the Titans needed only three plays to tie it. Collins found Britt with no defender within 10 yards on him for a 57-yard completion to the 14. Collins then hit an equally wide open Justin Gage in the end zone with 48 seconds left in the half. Britt, the first-round pick, made four catches for 85 yards.

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers kicker Jeff Reed (3) kicks a 33-yard field goal to beat the Tennessee Titans in overtime 13-10 during a NFL football game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Tennessee Titans, Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009 at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh.

Del Potro reaches semis; awaits opponent

NEW YORK (AP)—Juan Martin del Potro was aching for a second crack at a Grand Slam semifinal, a second chance to prove he has what it takes to win at that stage.

By early Thursday evening, he knew he'd get that opportunity at the U.S. Open, thanks to a wind-swept 4-6, 6-3, 6-2, 6-1 quarterfinal victory over 16th-seeded Marin Cilic of Croatia.

What the sixth-seeded del Potro still did not know by the end of the night, however, as rain washed over Flushing Meadows: The opponent he will have to beat to reach his first Grand Slam final.

That's because the quarterfinal between six-time major champion Rafael Nadal and 2007 Australian Open runner-up Fernando Gonzalez was postponed by showers during the second set.

The first rain delay, of about 75 minutes, came at 2-2 in the second set, after Nadal won the opening set in a tiebreaker. The second interruption came at about 10:20 p.m., with Nadal holding a 3-2 lead in the second-set tiebreaker.

At midnight, tournament officials suspended play for the night, sending Nadal and Gonzalez home. And leaving del Potro still waiting.

The Nadal-Gonzalez match was scheduled to resume Friday, not before 2 p.m.—following the first women's semifinal, between Serena Williams and Kim Clijsters, which was to begin at 12:30 p.m.

All of the breaks might have been helpful to Nadal, who called for a trainer after the first set. It appeared Nadal was being checked for a flare-up of a stomach muscle problem that bothered him earlier in the tournament.

"In the first set, it was very, very bad," Nadal's uncle and coach, Toni, said in a second-set interview with ESPN2, which was televising the match in the U.S. "Now, it's a little better. It's difficult. We must win this set."

Nadal was going to have to wait to try to do that. Organizers had hoped to conclude the match Thursday, because Friday's forecast called for more rain.

Several hours earlier, del Potro did a much better job than Cilic of dealing with the conditions, which included swirling winds that reached 20 mph.

They are quite similar: Both are 6-foot-6, both have big serves, both have seemingly unlimited potential. And they were born five days apart in 1988, making them the two youngest players ranked in the top 20.

Cilic began brilliantly on this day, racing to a lead of a set and a break. But he started missing more and more, while del Potro stayed steady enough to claim 17 of the last 20 games.

Del Potro has been thinking about this year's French Open, where he reached the semifinals and took a 2-1 lead in sets against Roger Federer.

Del Potro let that slip away.

He wasn't about to have the same thing happen Thursday.

"Well, I learn many things. I was so close to beat him," del Potro said, recalling that loss to Federer. "I have everything to learn, you know. I want to be a good player in the future."

He finished with only 24 unforced errors—29 fewer than Cilic.

"He was not missing," said Cilic, who upset No. 2 Andy Murray on Tuesday.

"Andy, he doesn't have as much power as del Potro has," Cilic said.

In the other men's semifinal Saturday, No. 1 Federer will face No. 4 Novak Djokovic. Federer beat Djokovic at the U.S. Open in the 2007 final and 2008 semifinals, part of an overall 8-4 head-to-head edge.

But there also is this: Federer has reached the final at 16 of the past 17 Grand Slam tournaments, and the only hiccup in that stretch was a loss to eventual champion Djokovic in the 2008 Australian Open semifinals.

The women's semifinals are Friday, when defending champion Williams will meet 2005 champion Clijsters, and Caroline Wozniacki faces Yanina Wickmayer in a matchup of 19-year-olds both playing in a Grand Slam semifinal for the first time.

Williams is seeking her fourth U.S. Open title and 12th Grand Slam singles championship overall. She also has a chance to win her 10th women's doubles title at a major with older sister Venus; they advanced to that final Thursday with a three-set victory.

After teaming with Venus to beat Alisa Kleybanova and Ekaterina Makarova 7-6 (4), 3-6, 6-2, the younger Williams acknowledged what has seemed rather obvious for quite some time: She cares much more about major tournaments than others.

"Absolutely. I really play for the Grand Slams," she said. "Whenever I'm playing elsewhere, I really try. But for me, the Grand Slams—I give it that extra oomph. It's where you can leave history and leave a mark, and that's kind of how I look at it."

Rockies win 7th straight by beating Reds

DENVER (AP)—Garrett Atkins hit a two-run homer and Jason Giambi had a two-run double in a five-run third inning, helping the Colorado Rockies to a 5-1 win over the Cincinnati Reds on Thursday for their seventh straight victory in the National League.

The NL wild card leaders increased their cushion to 4 1/2 games over idle San Francisco and crept within two games of first-place Los Angeles in the NL West. The Dodgers also had the day off.

By sweeping four games from the Reds, the Rockies wrapped up a 9-1 homestand—one of their best in franchise history. Next, Colorado embarks on a nine-game road trip that includes three in San Francisco.

Nationals 8, Phillies 7

At Washington, Ian Desmond homered and drove in four runs in his major league debut and Livan Hernandez pitched effectively into the eighth inning as Washington held off Philadelphia.

Adam Dunn hit his 36th homer for the Nationals, who gave up five runs in the ninth before Ron Villone got Ryan Howard to ground into a game-ending double play with runners at the corners. Moments earlier, Matt Stairs snapped an 0-for-30 skid with a pinch-hit grand slam.

Philadelphia's lead in the NL East was cut to five games over Florida. The Phillies had won nine straight against Washington.

The last-place Nationals won for only the second time in 12 games overall.

Hernandez (8-10), signed by Washington on Aug. 25 after he was released by the New York Mets, broke a five-game losing streak. Villone earned his first save this season.

Joe Blanton (9-7) gave up eight runs in 4 2-3 innings, ending his streak of 11 straight quality starts.

Marlins 13, Mets 4

At New York, Nick Johnson drove in four runs and Florida beat the listless Mets to gain ground on Philadelphia in the NL East.

Hanley Ramirez and Cody Ross each had three hits and two RBIs for the Marlins, who completed their first sweep of the Mets since taking four straight Aug. 30-Sept. 2, 2004, in New York. Dan Uggla hit his 27th homer and Florida wrapped up a 5-1 road trip.

The Mets (62-78) fell 16 games under .500 for the first time since finishing 71-91 in 2004. Bobby Parnell (3-8) walked five in five ineffective innings.

Burke Badenhop (7-4) pitched two innings for the win.

Braves 9, Astros 7

At Houston, Garret Anderson drove in three runs and Nate McLouth homered as the Atlanta Braves broke out of their offensive slump with a win over Roy Oswalt and the Astros.

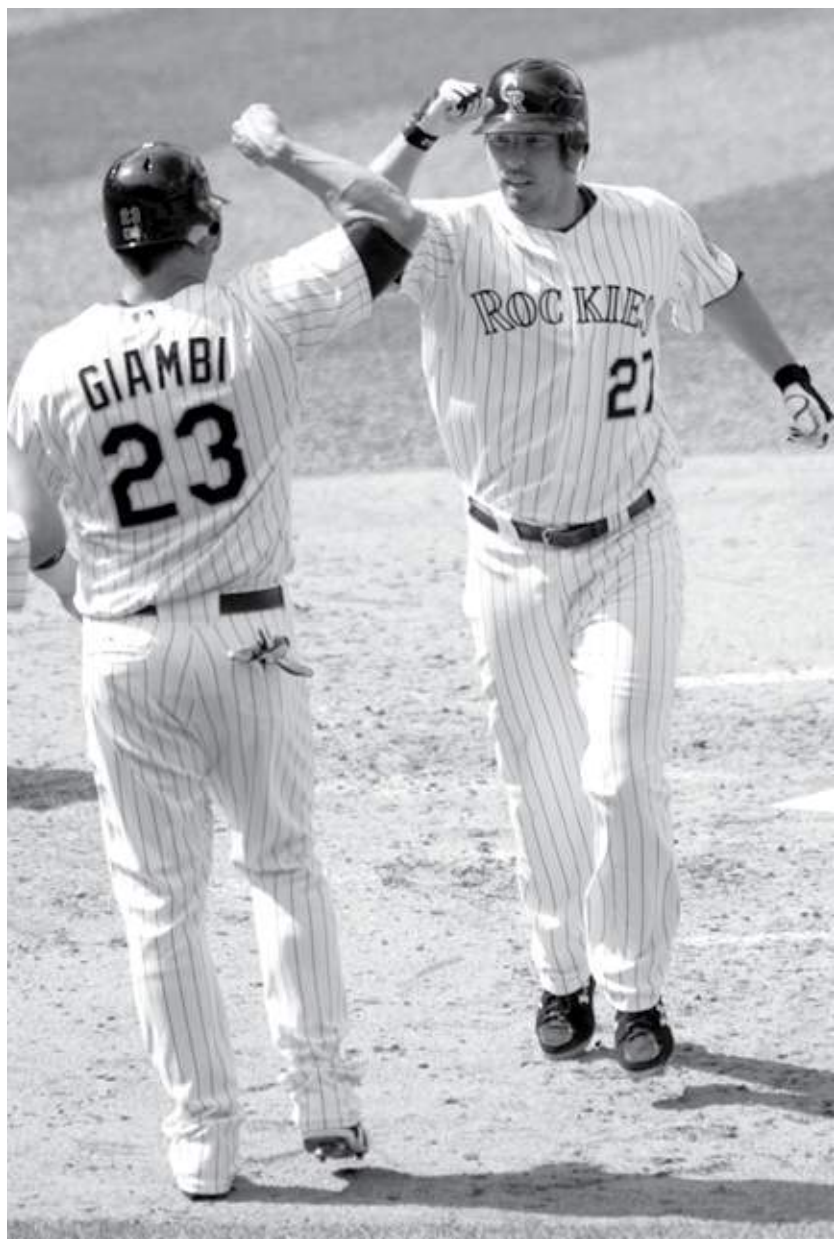
Brian McCann had four hits and two RBIs for the Braves, who chased the Astros' ace after two innings and finished with 16 hits, two shy of their season high.

Lance Berkman hit a three-run homer for the Astros, who lost for the third time in Oswalt's last 13 starts.

The Braves had averaged 1.67 runs and batted .153 in their previous six games, but led 3-0 after 12 pitches from Oswalt (8-6).

Royals 7, Tigers 4

At Kansas City, Alex Gordon and Alberto Callaspo homered to lead the last-place Kansas City Royals past the Detroit Tigers for a surprising three-game sweep of the American League Central leaders.



AP

Colorado Rockies' Jason Giambi, left, congratulates teammate Garrett Atkins after Atkins' two-run home run against the Cincinnati Reds in the third inning of the Rockies' 5-1 victory in a baseball game in Denver on Thursday, Sept. 10, 2009.

It was the first three-game sweep of an AL team at home this season for the Royals. They've won four straight overall for the first time since June 16.

The Tigers rolled into town on Tuesday on a six-game winning streak, while the Royals had dropped four in a row. But beginning with Bruce Chen on Tuesday, the Royals proceeded to win with three straight spot starters.

Blue Jays 3, Twins 2

At Toronto, Brett Cecil won his final start of the season for Toronto, allowing two runs and seven hits in six innings. Toronto is stopping his season after he pitched a combined 142 1-3 innings in the majors and at Triple-A.

Minnesota went 1 for 9 with runners in scoring position and are averaging just 3.2 runs during their past 10 games. Joe Mauer went 0 for 4, dropping his major league-leading average to .363.

One night after the teams drew 11,159, the smallest crowd in the 20-year history of Rogers Centre, attendance was 11,461, the second-lowest this season.

Angels 3, Mariners 0

At Anaheim, California, John Lackey pitched a five-hitter for his first complete game of the season and Torii Hunter broke a scoreless tie with a two-run homer as the Los Angeles Angels moved to a season-best 29 games over .500.

Lackey (10-7) struck out seven and walked one to help the Angels increase their AL West lead to five games over idle Texas. The right-hander has allowed one earned run in 26 innings over his last three starts.

Mariners outfielder Ichiro Suzuki was 0 for 4 and still needs four hits to reach the 200 mark for the ninth consecutive season, which would break the major league mark he shares with Wee Willie Keeler (1894-1901).

Rory Sabbatini states his case in Chicago

LEMONT, Ill. (AP)—Two days after his Presidents Cup snub, Rory Sabbatini made captain Greg Norman's decision to leave him off the International team look even more peculiar.

Sabbatini ran off seven birdies on renovated Cog Hill for a 5-under 66 on Thursday, giving him a share of the lead with Steve Marino at the BMW International and hopes of making it to the FedEx Cup finale.

They had a one-shot lead over Bo Van Pelt and Marc Leishman, who only qualified for the third playoff event by making an eagle on his final hole Monday at the TPC Boston.

Tiger Woods, a four-time winner at Cog Hill, was among those at 68.

Sabbatini won the Byron Nelson Championship in May and appeared to be in good shape to make the Presidents Cup team until Y.E. Yang stunned the golf world with his comeback win over Woods at the PGA Championship to bump Sabbatini out of the top 10.

Norman then used his two captain's picks on 17-year-old Ryo Ishikawa of Japan, who has won four times in the last calendar year; and Adam Scott, who is in the worst slump of his career and has fallen out of the top 50 in the world ranking.

Right after his low round, Sabbatini took the high road.

"If I'd been playing well over the past couple weeks and didn't get picked, I might have something to complain about," said Sabbatini, who has missed four cuts in his last eight starts and has not finished in the top 30 since winning in Dallas. "But you know what? The situation is such ... I'm here this week. I'm going to focus on this."

Scott had two top 10s this year—the Sony Open in January and the Scottish Open in July—without another finish in the top 20. Norman said Scott, a fellow Australian, was "the logical choice."

What disturbed Sabbatini was not hearing from Norman or anyone else during the three weeks after the PGA Championship when the captain makes his two selections.

"There was not a single conversation or a single phone call, period," Sabbatini said. "You could say I was a little disappointed."

The spunky South African was hardly disappointed by anything at Cog Hill, which received a facelift from Rees Jones as the public course in the Chicago suburbs. It is longer and tougher, with deeper bunkers, and it was reflected in the scoring.

The weather was close to perfect, with sunshine and mild wind. When the BMW Championship was last played at Cog Hill two years ago, in soft conditions from rain, Woods won at 22-under 262.

Woods at least kept himself in the mix this week, making a few good par saves and three birdie putts inside 5 feet.

"I think anything under par is a really good score," Woods said. "Usually, it takes a little bit before the guys get accustomed to what the scoring is going to be. The whole idea is, I think more than anything, the guys are trying to get accustomed to where to miss the golf ball, because the misses are so different than what they used to be."

Steve Stricker, whose victory last week in the Deutsche Bank Championship put him atop the FedEx Cup standings, had a three-putt from 10 feet at the turn and didn't make another birdie until his final hole for a 72.

Heath Slocum, The Barclays winner who is No. 3 in the standings behind Woods, opened with a 1-under 70.

Only 70 players qualified for this third playoff event, and the top 30 advance to the Tour Championship in two weeks with a chance to win the $10 million bonus.

Sabbatini (No. 35) and Marino (No. 26) are simply trying to get there.

"It's on my mind a little bit, but I'm trying not to think about it too much," Marino said. "I'm just trying to treat this like any other tournament and just try to do the best I can."

The surprise is Leishman, who would have finished outside the top 70 in the standings if not for his eagle putt on the last hole. He kept right on rolling at Cog Hill, running off four birdies in a five-hole stretch around the turn and keeping bogeys off his card.

"Three more 67s would be good," Leishman said. "I mean, I've got nothing to lose. Probably top five I would have to do to get to the Tour Championship, so it's either that or a couple weeks off. Go hard or go home, I guess. Hopefully, I can go hard."

The group at 68 included Geoff Ogilvy and Padraig Harrington, both already in the top 10 in the standings. Ogilvy was the first player to get to 5 under, which he attributed to a few long birdie putts. He took a double bogey on the seventh hole by hitting his tee shot into the water, yet recovered with consecutive birdies to end his round.

NBA referees bracing for lockout

NBA referees are prepared to be locked out for the start of the season after negotiations with the league on a new contract broke down this week when David Stern ended the latest bargaining session.

No further talks are scheduled—and when they do resume, it'll be without the commissioner.

Referees spokesman Lamell McMorris accused Stern of acting childish and not negotiating in good faith, so Stern removed himself from the process.

Stern said Thursday he told McMorris that, "In fact if it was going to get personal—which apparently he's decided to make it by calling news media and leveling a series of inaccurate allegations—that I would absent myself from the negotiations, which I have."

"Hopefully we'll make a deal with the referees, or we won't, but it won't be on the basis of personality, it'll be on the basis of economics," Stern added.

The league's contract with its referees expired on Sept. 1, and McMorris said the sides have basically agreed on salary issues for a new two-year deal. He said the league wanted to freeze salaries for the first year with a 1 percent increase in year two. ***(AP)***

Fighters from Guam, RP eyed for AOW 4

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Trench Tech Purebred Gym is currently working on getting fighters from Guam and the Philippines to compete in next month's Art of War IV All Island Grappling/ Submissions Challenge.

Trench Tech president Cuki Alvarez said that fighters have started signing up for the event set for Oct. 10 with the venue to be announced later.

Miller Lite and NTT Docomo Pacific are the two major sponsors for this event.

Other sponsors include Pepsi, Monster, Hagu Next, 360 Revolving Restaurant, Aquarius Beach Tower Hotel, Budget Car Rental, and Chalan Kanoa Beach Hotel.

Interested grapplers may sign-up at the Trench Tech Gym in Afetnas from Monday to Saturday at 5pm to 8pm. The entry fee is $25 per weight class.

For more details, please call Cuki Alvarez at 670-483-4MMA.

This event is part of the preparation for the Trench Warz XI: Redemption to be held on Dec. 4 at the Saipan World Resort's Royal Taga Hall.

Trench Tech has already scheduled six mixed martial arts events for 2010 beginning with Rites of Passage VIII: Fearless set for Jan. 29.

It will be followed by Trench Warz XII: Battle Brawl on April 23, Art of War V on June 18, Rites of Passage IX: Indestructible on July 30, Trench Warz XIII: Vengeance on Nov. 19, and Trench Tech's Fan Appreciation Night on Dec. 31.

Trench Tech's last event was Trench Warz X: Collision last July 31 and saw Saipan fighters draw level with their more experienced rivals from Guam.

It was an eventful evening with the local boys needing to dig themselves out of a 3-5 hole to force the deadlock.

Heavyweights Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial and Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas came to the rescue in the fight card's last two matches. The former reasserted his dominance over Manny "The Enforcer" Chong in the main event and the latter bloodied Eric "The Terror" Tedtaotao so badly that ring doctor Bill Weiss had to call an end to their semi main event bout.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Trench Tech will host Art of War IV All Island Grappling/Submissions Challenge on Oct. 10 with its venue still be announced.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
New York	91	50	.645	__
Boston	81	58	.583	9
Tampa Bay	72	68	.514	18 1/2
Toronto	63	77	.450	27 1/2
Baltimore	56	83	.403	34

Central Division

Detroit	75	64	.540	__
Minnesota	70	70	.500	5 1/2
Chicago	70	71	.496	6
Cleveland	60	79	.432	15
Kansas City	55	85	.393	20 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	84	55	.604	__
Texas	79	60	.568	5
Seattle	72	69	.511	13
Oakland	62	77	.446	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	79	59	.572	__
Florida	75	65	.536	5
Atlanta	72	68	.514	8
New York	62	78	.443	18
Washington	48	92	.343	32

Central Division

St. Louis	84	57	.596	__
Chicago	71	67	.514	11 1/2
Houston	68	72	.486	15 1/2
Milwaukee	66	73	.475	17
Cincinnati	63	77	.450	20 1/2
Pittsburgh	54	84	.391	28 1/2

West Division

Los Angeles	83	58	.589	__
Colorado	81	60	.574	2
San Francisco	76	64	.543	6 1/2
San Diego	63	78	.447	20
Arizona	62	79	.440	21

Yesterday's Games

Colorado 5, Cincinnati 1
Washington 8, Philadelphia 7
Florida 13, N.Y. Mets 4
Atlanta 9, Houston 7
Toronto 3, Minnesota 2
Kansas City 7, Detroit 4
L.A. Angels 3, Seattle 0

BMW CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

LEMONT, Illinois (AP)–Scores Thursday from the BMW Championship, a $7.5 million US PGA Tour playoff event on 7,616-yard, par-71 Dubsdread Course at Cog Hill Golf and Country Club:

FIRST ROUND

Rory Sabbatini	33-33–66
Steve Marino	33-33–66
Bo Van Pelt	35-32–67
Marc Leishman	32-35–67
David Toms	35-33–68
Padraig Harrington	34-34–68
Geoff Ogilvy	37-31–68
Tiger Woods	34-34–68
Camilo Villegas	33-35–68
John Mallinger	33-35–68
Ian Poulter	33-36–69
Anthony Kim	36-33–69
Bubba Watson	34-35–69
Jonathan Byrd	36-33–69
Mark Wilson	35-34–69
Brandt Snedeker	33-36–69
Dustin Johnson	35-34–69
Charles Howell III	34-35–69
John Senden	33-37–70
Heath Slocum	34-36–70
Nick Watney	33-37–70
Sean O'Hair	33-37–70
Jim Furyk	32-38–70
Scott Verplank	33-37–70
Luke Donald	34-36–70
Webb Simpson	37-33–70
Bryce Molder	34-36–70
Chad Campbell	35-35–70
Jason Day	36-35–71
Y.E. Yang	36-35–71
Brian Davis	34-37–71
Matt Kuchar	35-36–71
Bill Haas	36-35–71
Ryan Moore	35-36–71
Phil Mickelson	36-35–71
Sergio Garcia	38-33–71
Charlie Wi	38-33–71
Jason Bohn	37-34–71
Pat Perez	39-33–72
Steve Stricker	36-36–72
Jeff Overton	37-35–72
Stewart Cink	37-35–72
Mike Weir	37-35–72
Kevin Na	36-36–72
Retief Goosen	37-35–72
Fredrik Jacobson	35-37–72
John Rollins	37-36–73
Hunter Mahan	38-35–73
Charley Hoffman	36-37–73
Brian Gay	35-38–73
Angel Cabrera	37-36–73
Zach Johnson	37-36–73
Justin Leonard	36-37–73
Nathan Green	34-39–73
Paul Goydos	35-39–74
Davis Love III	39-35–74
Lucas Glover	37-37–74
Jason Dufner	37-37–74
Kevin Sutherland	39-36–75
Ernie Els	36-39–75
Ben Crane	39-36–75
Robert Allenby	38-37–75
Woody Austin	38-38–76
Stephen Ames	37-39–76
Jerry Kelly	40-36–76
Kenny Perry	40-37–77
J.B. Holmes	42-36–78
Tim Clark	37-41–78

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

Sparks	3	0
Sonics	2	0
G-Stars	2	0
Runnin' Rebels	2	0
Sixers	2	0
Rollers 1	1	1
670 Rollers 2	1	1
Saints	1	2
Ol'Aces	0	3
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	2
Hi-5	0	2
Celtics	0	3

ZERO

From Page 28

lines also donated two roundtrip tickets to Majuro for next year's tournament to Team CNMI.

Their win notwithstanding, Sword was just happy that the tournament ended without incident.

"I want to thank God that everyone went out and returned without incident. I also thank the Marshall Islands Billfish Club (www.billfishclub.com) for putting on this great tournament for the last 17 years. They go through a lot of effort and with the hard economic times they are still at it. My hat goes off to them," he said.

He also had pleasant words to say to sponsors Ambros (Shimizu family) Budweiser, Continental Airlines, Republic of Marshall Islands president Litokwa Tomeing, and others who have consistently provided financial support for the tournament.

Sword also gave kudos to teammates Jack Ading (Republic of Marshall Islands Finance Minister) and Jon Deloso (Continental Airlines) for their great weekend experience in Majuro.

He also thanked the boat captains of *True Blue* (Mark Carey) and *XXX* (Ben Reimers) for stirring them to the abundant fish spots.

"Lastly I thank my dad, James W. Sword, for teaching me how to fish and my wife, Rosemond B. Santos, for supporting my passion and our entire family and friends for enjoying the moment with us," he said.

CNMI

From Page 28

10-k run portion in four hours, 40 minutes, and 54 seconds.

In the longer Tagaman race a week later, Manglona finished the 1.5-km swim leg, 60-km road bike race, and 15-km run in 4:27:23.

According to the Pacific Mini Games 2009 website, the triathlon's swim leg will be held in the harbor and marina area. The four 10-km bike laps will feature one 200-meter hill with some undulations and several tight corners. The four 2.5-km run is flat, but runners will cruise through a mixture of concrete, tarmac, and grass surfaces.

Manglona's sport will be one of the last events in the Mini Games calendar as it will be held on Sept. 30.

For his part, Wabol finished second to Yumul in the two-round Mini Games qualifier organized by Refaluwasch Golf Association.

Mr. Unorthodox struggled in the first qualifier with an 81, but bounced back in the second qualifier with a round leading 75 after a 36-39 performance in the front and back nines to finish with a two-round total of 156.

Golf will be played at the Rarotonga Golf Course from Sept. 22 to 25 with 11 island nation participating.

The CNMI originally was set to send eight athletes to the Games. Golf was supposed to have a four-man team, plus a coach.

However, problems with fundraising resulted in the pull-out of Ralph Yumul, Ben Duenas, Carl Hocog, and coach Jordon Kosam.

Eddie Johnson was also supposed to take part in va'a canoe, but according to White, the former Saipan Swim Club stalwart was unable to get time off from work.

"Athletics was originally supposed to send a small team. However, the timing of the Games (during the school year) made it difficult for our athletes to take the time off to participate," added the NMASA president.

He also vowed that NMASA will try and send a bigger team for the 2010 Micronesian Games in Koror.

"We're hoping to field a strong team for next year's Micronesian Games, which will be held in Palau," he said.

White, along with Wabol and Manglona, will leave the CNMI next Thursday, Sept. 17, at 3:30pm. Their flight to Rarotonga will have stops in Guam, Australia, and New Zealand, before arriving in the Cook Islands.

CK SAINTS

From Page 28

The Saints watched an open-wide desperation attempt by Ol'Aces top scorer Trevor Ogumoro from three-point range miss before the buzzer sounded that could've sent the game into overtime.

Ogumoro finished with 16 points for the Ol'Aces, including three fast break layups that sparked an 11-0 run that erased the Saints' biggest lead of 15 points.

Ogumuro's rainbow attempt bounced off the rim sending the Saints' bench in a big celebration.

Before that the Saints dominated on all fronts most of the way, widening its gap, 46-31, with 3:14 left in the second half of play.

After that, the Ol'Aces changed the complexion of the game with a full-court pressure defense, which momentarily clicked as they stole the ball thrice and forced the Saints to turn the ball over two times.

Loes Tomokane capped the Ol'Aces 11-0 run with an undergoal stab as the team moved to within four, 42-46, with 1:30 to go.

The Saints' Leo Galarse found an opening in the left corner to make it 48-42, while Ol'Aces' Luther Taylor completed a three-point play with under a minute left to cut the deficit to three.

Then Luizi Reyes scored from the keyhole for the Saints before Ol'Aces moved to within two points, 48-50, with 36.8 ticks to go.

Ogumoro put back his own miss while Tomokane sank the second of two free throws.

The Saints' Reyes missed a fastbreak layup but Ol'Aces' Tomokane turned the ball over with a traveling violation.

Dominic Reyes split his charities for the final score with 13.3 second remaining. Then came the desperation 3-pointer by Ogumuro.

CK Saints 51 – Iglesias, D. Reyes 11, Torres 6, Tudela 6, Aulerin 5, Galarse 4, Pangelinan 3, Tenorio 2.

Ol'Aces 48 – Ogumoro 16, Deleon Guerrero 10, Taylor 7, Deleon 4, Tomokane 4, E. Dillay 3, D. Dillay 2, Charley 2.

Scoring by halves: 26-15, 51-48.

SEMAN

From Page 28

ace of the month.

For more information, contact Kosam at 483-4506 or tournament director Jess Wabol at 288-1129.

Others expected to crowd the big guns include previous winners Ray Tigilau and junior golfer Jay Choi.

Tigilau's 71 in the qualifying round was enough to take the April ace plum, while Choi won in July after scoring 66, also in the qualifying round.

A player cannot win two ace titles in the same year, but he can take the top prize at stake in each month.

Monthly ace winners must complete the required number of tournaments for the club championships.

Ace winners can only participate in the 2009 RGA Club Championships if they competed in at least six RGA-sanctioned tournaments or qualifying events.

Steelers lean on Big Ben's arm to top Titans in OT
The Pittsburgh Steelers apparently are going to stay with this Ben Roethlisberger to Santonio Holmes combination until somebody beats them. **25**

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Fighters from Guam, RP eyed for AOW 4
Trench Tech Purebred Gym is currently working on getting fighters from Guam and the Philippines to compete in next month's Art of War IV All Island Grappling/Submissions Challenge. **27**

CNMI has two-man delegation to Cook Islands

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

The CNMI will probably have the leanest delegation to the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Cook Islands with only Jess Wabol of golf and Tinian's Joshua Manglona of triathlon representing the islands in the quadrennial event.

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association president Michael White said the CNMI will indeed be sending just the two athletes to the Games, but added that he himself will travel to Rarotonga to serve as the group's chef de mission.

"Our delegation, small but strong, will be departing next week. We will be the face of the CNMI at the Games, and I am very hopeful that our athletes will do well. I hope that people recognize and appreciate how hard these athletes have trained, and how much of a personal sacrifice they are making for the CNMI," said White.

Manglona

Wabol

The pride of Tinian, 21-year-old Manglona has acquitted himself well with credible performances in this year's 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championships and 20th Tagaman Triathlon.

Manglona debuted in the Crown Jewel of XTERRA Series with a runner-up finish in the 20 to 24 age group. He completed the grueling 1-km swim leg, 30-kilometer bike race, and the

See CNMI on Page 27

'Zero to hero' for Team CNMI in Majuro

By MARK RABAGO
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com
ASSISTANT EDITOR

From paupers last year, to princes this year.

That seems to best describe Team CNMI's fortunes in the past two stagings of the Budweiser 17th Annual All-Micronesia Billfish Tournament in Majuro, Marshall Islands.

Skippered by Saipan businessman Gary Sword, Team CNMI emerged as this year's champion of the All-Mike tourney, ending the six-year run of Team Pohnpei led by its captain Alex Tretnoff.

"Excellent! Last year was my first year to fish the All-Micronesia tournament and we got '0' marlins and '0' points. We caught three small skipjacks and we ate them in true island fashion. We won the 'crying towel' award last year and for our team to go from zero to hero in one year feels great," said Sword in an e-mail to the *Saipan Tribune*.

Team CNMI ran away with the championship after accumulating 981 points, no doubt aided by the 552-lb. marlin Sword and company caught not even an hour after casting away from the port in Majuro.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The 552-lb. marlin the Gary Sword-skipped Team CNMI caught is seen here being transported to land during last weekend's Budweiser 17th Annual All-Micronesia Billfish Tournament held in Majuro.

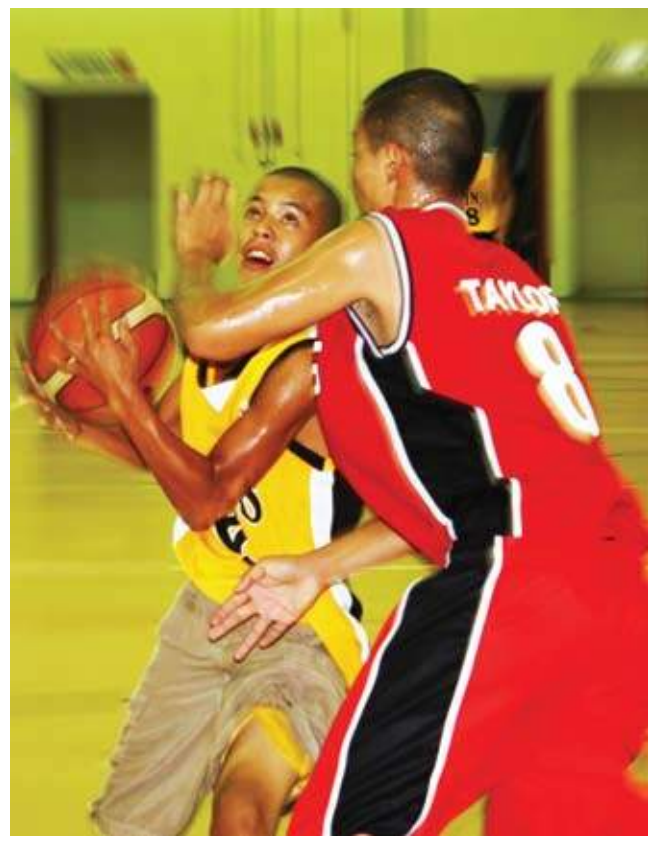
"When the fish hit, we thought it was a yellow fin as it went down deep. Ten minutes later it leapt into the air and made a run which took out most of our line. We had two less than two turns left but we did some maneuvering and kept up the fight. It took us an hour and 30 minutes to land the fish. When the fish came up it was tired and we gaffed it and then dragged it into the boat. It took all five of us to pull it in," he said.

Sword said the prizewinning marlin was donated to a local hospital, where it will undoubtedly feed not a few of its residents the next couple of weeks.

In all, Team CNMI won $4,000 for their effort. However, not all went straight to their pockets as Sword and company donated $1,000 back to the Marshall Islands Billfish Club as a sign of their appreciation for their hospitality.

As a plus, Continental Air-

See ZERO on Page 27



NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
C.K. Saints guard Sandy Tenorio drives to the basket against Ol'Aces Luther Taylor in their game Wednesday night in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

CK Saints survive Ol' Aces in Rotary caging

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CK Saints survived a late rally by the relentless Ol'Aces, 51-48, and finally barged into the win column last Wednesday night in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The win was the Saints' first in three starts this season while it dealt Ol'Aces their third straight setback.

Ben Iglesias drilled in 14 and Dominic Reyes added 11 for the Saints, who dashed off a fiery comeback attempt by the Ol'Aces in the endgame.

See CK SAINTS on Page 27

Seman leads cast for RGA September qualifier

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Jesse Seman will lead a strong field of players in the Refaluwasch Golf Association September Ace of the Month Qualifier tomorrow, Sept. 13, at the Coral Ocean Point Golf Resort.

Seman won the August edition of the regular monthly event by firing in 63 at the Marianas Country Club in Marpi during the qualifying round on Aug. 15.

Seman's record is the lowest so far this year.

The next lowest score after that was courtesy of Tony Rogolifoi, who closed out with a 71 in the main event on Aug. 30. Tournament director Jess Wabol made a 72 also on Aug. 30.

RGA president Jordon Kosam reminded all players yesterday that the check-in time for this Sunday's September qualifying round is set at 10am and the tee-off time is at 11am.

Kosam holds the second lowest score of 64 this year on the way to winning the June

See SEMAN on Page 27